

Greek Cypriot women cross buffer zone for first time in 13 years

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Greek Cypriot women brushed U.N. peace force troops aside Sunday and crossed en masse into the buffer zone splitting war-divided Cyprus for the first time since the 1974 Turkish invasion.

About 400 women in the "women walk home" demonstration were prevented by extensive minefields from advancing another 200 metres to enter the Turkish-occupied region, on the other side of the buffer zone.

The aim of the march was to break through the heavily fortified "Atila Line" and the U.N.-patrolled no-man's-land dividing the Greek Cypriot controlled south from the Turkish-occupied north of the east Mediterranean island.

The general purpose was to protest against the 13-year-old de-facto partition and the Turkish refusal to allow any of the 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to return to their homes in the north.

"We come in peace," proclaimed huge cloth banners in English and Turkish carried at the head of the advancing column. Many of the women marchers wearing coloured summer dresses also held up large white flags.

The women walked across empty fields on the outskirts of Nicosia, jumping over a series of Greek Cypriot fortifications, narrow infantry trenches and deep anti-tank ditches, to reach the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone.

Blue-helmeted troops of the Swedish and Austrian contingents of the United Nations peace force in Cyprus, UNFICYP, blocked their further progress, warning there were

Turkish minefields ahead. "We want to return to our homes. Get out our way," the women marchers shouted, scuffling with the peacekeepers and brushing them aside.

Two peaceforce officers, Capt. Klaus Gotthold of the Swedish contingent and Major William Peto of the British contingent shouted at the women who had broken through the U.N. line to stop, "or you will be blown up."

About 100 peacekeepers regrouped hastily and formed a human chain by locking arms, successfully blocking a further advance.

"We don't mind if some of us die, we want to prove this line doesn't exist for us," some women shouted, trying to break through the line.

Calmer demonstrators prevailed on them to quieten down. "We have achieved our objective, to cross the line, if there were no minefields we would have gone all the way," Cleopatra Payata, a theology student who is one of the organisers of the walk told the demonstrators.

The women then squatted on ground under the blazing midday sun in a temperature of 38C. (100F.) for about an hour. They hoped somebody might approach them from the Turkish side for "a friendly exchange of views," one of the organisers said.

About a dozen armed Turkish soldiers observed patrolling a

ridge about 400 metres away kept their distance however.

The organisers had declared earlier their plan was to cross into the Turkish-occupied region to deliver a written protest to the Turkish embassy.

Since they were unable to cross they asked the United Nations to deliver their protest.

"The protest demands the withdrawal of the Turkish troops and the 65,000 colonisers brought to North Cyprus from the Turkish mainland to settle in our homes," Miss Payata said.

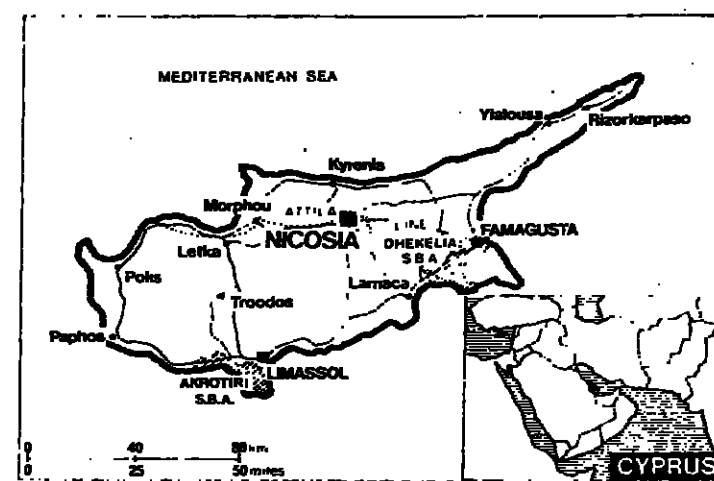
The protest is also against Turkey's refusal to implement a series of U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the occupation troops and the return of the Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes.

"A few days ago (U.S. President Ronald) Reagan called for the dismantling of the shameful Berlin Wall. Why doesn't he come to Cyprus to demand the dismantling of this shameful line that prevents us from returning to our homes," said Adila Hajiyani, a German woman from Hamburg, married to a Greek Cypriot.

"I have lived in Cyprus for 30 years and I want to return to my home in Famagusta with my children and grandchildren," she added. Famagusta is one of the major towns under Turkish occupation.

The Atila Line has prevented contact between the two island communities for the past 13 years.

Freedom of movement is prevented by the Turkish troops and the Turkish Cypriot authorities who formed a breakaway state in the north in Nov. 1983.



Paper implicates ranking officers in Karami killing

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The radical newspaper Al Khaleej on Sunday implicated ranking Lebanese military and security officers in the June 1 assassination of Premier Rashid Karami, and claimed Israel participated in the plan.

The paper, in a dispatch from Damascus, the Syrian capital, quoted unidentified sources close to the investigation panel as claiming Col. Samir Harb, second in command of the Lebanese Air Force, had met with Israeli officers to devise and oversee the assassination plan.

Mr. Karami died when a bomb believed to have been planted in his helicopter seat, exploded in the air minutes after taking off from Tripoli, his hometown in North Lebanon on his way to Beirut.

The helicopter pilot was seriously injured in the explosion, but the co-pilot managed to bring the aircraft to the Christian-controlled Halat airstrip midway between Tripoli and Beirut.

The helicopter had taken off from the Adma Airbase near Iounieh in the Christian heartland north of Beirut to pick up Mr. Karami, a Sunni Muslim who had resigned from his post three weeks earlier. This sparked Mus-

Envoy denies hostages taken to Iran

BEIRUT (AP) — The Iranian embassy denied Sunday that missing Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite or any of the eight American hostages held in Lebanon have been taken to Iran.

"None of the hostages is in Tehran. The Iranian Islamic Republic has nothing to do with the hostages whoever they are," a spokesman for the embassy's press section said.

"We also deny that Terry Waite has been taken to Tehran," the spokesman added. He declined to be named.

The Beirut weekly magazine Ash Shiraa on Saturday said some of the American hostages have been taken to Iran, where a powerful faction wants them to be put on trial.

Ash Shiraa, which broke the story of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, said another group favoured a trade of the hostages for frozen Iranian assets in the United States and U.S. weapons bought by Iran and never shipped.

The semi-official newspaper Al Itihad in Abu Dhabi also reported on Saturday that Mr. Waite was twice taken to Tehran for talks with officials there since he disappeared in Muslim west Beirut on Jan. 20.

The Anglican Church in London said it did not know "if there is any truth" in Al Itihad's report.

No group has claimed responsibility for Mr. Waite's disappearance.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Pete Martinez said the United States has no information to substantiate

Ash Shiraa's report. "However, if such reports were indeed true, we would consider it a matter of the utmost gravity and would hold the Iranian government directly responsible for the safety and well-being of the hostages," Mr. Martinez said.

"In any case, the very notion of a 'trial' for the hostages is outrageous. The hostages are not criminals but innocent victims. The terrorist kidnappers are those who should be facing trial," he added.

Ash Shiraa said Hussein Ali Montazeri, the man chosen by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to demand that the American hostages in particular be brought to trial, especially since some of them have already been taken to Iran.

The Lebanese magazine said last week that a less radical wing headed by Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani believes "a settlement to the hostages issue could be achieved only if the United States delivered to Iran weapons that had been purchased and paid for by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi."

The Shah was toppled by Khomeini's 1979 Islamic Revolution and a year later the six-year-old Gulf war broke out between Iran and Iraq.

Ash Shiraa said Mr. Rafsanjani's faction also wants the United States to release all Iranian assets frozen in American banks.

Seven of the American hostages in Lebanon have been claimed by kidnapping factions believed made up of Shiite Muslim extremists loyal to Iran. The

eight had been claimed by a pro-Libyan group. Sixteen other foreigners are missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon. They are six Frenchmen, two Britons, two West Germans, an Italian, an Irishman, a South Korean, an Indian and two unidentified foreigners.

In Biloxi, Mississippi, the Rev. Benjamin Weir, a former Beirut hostage, said the reported transfer of some American hostages from Lebanon to Iranian custody is "extremely distressing" and suggests ominous things.

"One of the ominous things that we could think of is that they might in some way be charged with having been involved in political activities, which I'm quite sure is not true for any of them," said Rev. Weir, visiting the southern U.S. city to attend the annual meeting of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

"It is extremely distressing if this is true, if it is a serious intention to subject them to interrogation and trial," Rev. Weir said.

"It's very hard to know what the truth of the matter is," he said.

The U.S. State Department has said it had no information on the reports.

Rev. Weir, a Presbyterian missionary who had lived in Beirut for 30 years, was taken hostage in May 1984 by Islamic Jihad, a Shiite Muslim group loyal to Iran. He was released in September 1985.

The government has indicated his release was part of the arms-for-hostages deal with Iran. The

Rafsanjani reelected speaker

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Iranian Parliament Sunday reelected Hashemi Rafsanjani as speaker for another year, the state-run Tehran television, which is monitored in Nicosia, reported.

Of the 230 members present in the 270-seat parliament, 183 voted for Mr. Rafsanjani and 12 against, while 35 abstained, the television said.

According to its regulations, the parliament votes annually for the election of the speaker.

Moscow, Tehran discuss economic cooperation

LONDON (R) — Efforts to expand economic and industrial cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union were discussed at talks in Tehran between ministers of the two countries, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported Sunday.

Both sides expressed hope that existing cooperation would be increased through the work of a Joint Economic Commission, which met last December for the first time in six years.

IRNA, received in London, said the two delegations reviewed the progress of major joint in-

dustrial projects, including the expansion of a steel plant at Isfahan and power plants at Isfahan and Ahvaz.

Soviet experts pulled out of Isfahan, Iran's third largest city, after a series of Iraqi air raids in 1985 but December's meeting decided that they should return.

The two sides also considered joint exploitation of border rivers and the resources of the Caspian Sea and setting up joint shipping lines in the Caspian, IRNA said.

Another issue raised was the resumption of Iranian natural gas exports to the Soviet Union.

Cheap decoy 'could have saved Stark'

CHICAGO (AP) — Last month's attack on the USS Stark, which killed 37 sailors, might have been prevented by the use of a simple, inexpensive decoy device available since 1970, the Chicago Tribune reported Sunday.

The Tribune said the U.S. navy is spending tens of billions of dollars researching high-technology defences against anti-ship missiles, but has failed to deploy the decoy device, originally known as "rubber duckie."

The device is an inflatable rubber boat outfitted with eight pyramid-shaped radar reflectors. It is towed behind a ship to confuse and misdirect radar-guided mis-

siles such as the Exocet that struck the Stark.

The Tribune said the British navy has quietly been purchasing towable decoys recently, and Soviet ships have been seen towing spherical devices believed to contain one or more radar reflectors.

Experts told the newspaper that the combined reflections of the ship and the towed decoy give the radar sensors in the nose of the missile the outline of one very large target. Since it is programmed to aim for the centre of a target, the missile winds up passing between the ship and the decoy.

"It is the cheapest solution to the navy's vulnerability problem, and absolutely would have saved the Stark," said Tom Amble, a Pentagon radar expert and the former technical director of the China Lake Naval Weapons Centre, where such a decoy was first successfully tested 17 years ago.

When asked why the cheap decoy has yet to be deployed as a defence, a navy spokesman told the Tribune:

"We're spending \$8.5 million in decoy research this year. We're prepared to spend up to \$50 million in research and intend to deploy towed decoys aboard every ship." The navy has no deployment timetable, he added.

Forgotten Lebanese live in southern 'twilight zone'

By Alistair Lyon

RMEISH, Lebanon — Trapped on Israel's doorstep are 100,000 forgotten Lebanese whose impoverished land has become a twilight zone for Middle East combatants.

"We live in a locked box," was how Adia Rizkallah, a Christian housewife from Alma Shaab village, summed up life in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

For Israel, the 10-kilometre wide strip that snakes 120 kilometres from the Mediterranean coast to the foothills of Mount Hermon is a front-line defence against guerrilla attacks by Palestinians, leftists and Iranian-inspired Shiite Muslims.

But for the Lebanese, a decade of Israeli control has sharpened a sense of isolation and economic deprivation.

"Our land is occupied, we have no future," Jaafar, a 21-year-old Shiite mechanic, told Reuters.

At the frontier, dirt roads run alongside an electrified fence. Fortified posts bristling with antennae protect neat, red-tiled Israeli settlements a stone's throw from Lebanon.

Helicopters buzz like insects in the clear blue sky as troop carriers grind along dusty, battered roads. Their unsmiling crews wave Lebanese drivers to the verge — even here in Israel's well-protected backyard, suicide car bombs are feared.

Christian and some Muslim border villages have long made common cause with Israel against the Palestinians, furnishing recruits for the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Few have closer links to Israel than the sleepy, tobacco-growing village of Rmeish, whose 5,000 Maronite Christians live just two kilometres from the border.

They say the collapse of the Lebanese pound has destroyed their traditional livelihood, increasing dependence on Israel.

"Tobacco isn't worth growing any more," shrugged Karim Al Alim, the elderly village mukhtar (headman). "A kilo (2.2 pounds) sells for about half a pack of cigarettes."

Rmeish has enlisted 400 of its sons in the Israeli-paid SLA. They earn a minimum of \$100 a month, a high income in terms of the much-depreciated local currency and about four times the average pay of their militia enemies to the north.

The SLA, backed by around 1,000 Israeli troops, has up to 2,500 Christians, Shites and Druze, with a fighting core of 700, according to an independent military source in the south.

The source said anti-Syrian militants have some sympathisers among Shites in the border zone, but Israeli security is too tight to permit sustained guerrilla activity there.

Scores of militiamen deserted from the SLA early this year after Iranian-trained Hizbollah (Party

of God) fighters inflicted heavy casualties in a wave of attacks. But increased Israeli support and the lure of payment in dollars have since boosted recruitment, residents said.

Georges, 17, fending off a toddler's interest in his Kalashnikov rifle, squats with black-clad womenfolk sifting grain on the porch of a one-storey concrete house in Rmeish.

"His father was killed a few months ago fighting for the SLA," one of the women explained. "There are six children to feed, so Georges had to join up in his place."

Rmeish's history of ties to Israel stems partly from the antipathy of its Maronite population to the Palestinian commandos whose presence in the early 1970s drew the south into damaging confrontation with its powerful neighbour.

"We are Lebanese, we have no other country," the 72-year-old mukhtar said.

Andreotti asks PLO 'to bring Abbas to justice'

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has written in a Florence magazine that PLO leader Yasser Arafat should "bring to justice" Mohammad Abbas, the alleged mastermind of the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship.

Mr. Andreotti wrote in Progress, a bi-monthly cultural magazine, that "we can't forget that Arafat told us that if responsibility was determined, the PLO itself would bring them to justice."

Mohammad Abbas was tried in absentia in Genoa last July and condemned to life in prison.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:35	Programme Review
15:55	Cartoons and children's programme
17:05	World of Strange Powers
17:30	Arabic series
18:30	Cultural debate
19:00	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Message from Oman
21:00	Arabic Series
21:30	Cultural panel discussion
22:40	Arab Scholars
23:00	News Summary in Arabic
23:10	Arab Scholars continued
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Marie Perle (French comedy)
19:00	News in French
19:15	Sport magazine (French)
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Magazine Zero One
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Three Up, Two Down
21:10	Magnum
22:00	News in English
22:30	Whose Baby? (mini series)
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 KHz. FM	
partly on 9800 KHz. SW	
Tel: 774111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Just a Minute
11:00	Follow the Wind
12:00	News Summary
12:05	30-Minute Theatre
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Cont.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Just a Minute
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Man from the Ministry
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Sports Roundup
18:30	Music
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Cont.
22:00	News Summary
22:05	Evening Show Continued

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An art exhibition by Lebanese artist Jan Tardi at the Petra Bank Gallery — Wadi Sagra.	
* An exhibition of Arab calligraphy by Nidal Tabat at the Jordanian plastic artists association (until June 30).	
* The annual art exhibition by the ministry of labour handicapped and social welfare centres at the Professional Associations Complex (until June 15).	
* An exhibition of British artists' prints at the British Council (until June 18).	
* An exhibition of art works by students of the Nazareth School at the French Cultural Centre (until June 18).	
FEATURE FILM	
* "A Chorus Line" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre .. 644371	
British Council .. 6361478	
French Cultural Centre .. 637009	
Goethe Institute .. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620409	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777	
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195	
Husseini Youth City .. 6671816	
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251	
Armenian Municipal Library .. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555	
MUSEUMS	
* "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
18:00	Agaba (RJ)
18:15	Cairo (RJ)
18:20	Larnaca (RJ)
18:30	Damascus (RJ)
18:30	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
18:30	Kuwait (RJ)
18:35	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
18:40	Doha (add.) (RJ)
18:45	Cairo (RJ)
18:40	Vietnam, New York (RJ)
19:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:40	Bangkok (RJ)
20:10	Bucharest, Athens (RJ)
08:25	Baghdad (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
07:00	Cairo, London (BA)
11:10	Frankfurt (LH)
14:05	Cairo (MS)
14:45	Bahrain, Doha (GF)
15:35	Damascus (RJ)
16:30	Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
18:30	Baghdad (IA)
01:40	Paris (AF)
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Saturday rates	
Local sell/buy rates in JLD	
Belgian franc	89.9 / 91.4
Dutch guilder	162 / 166.7
French franc	55.7 / 56.3
Italian lire	25.7 / 26.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	234.2 / 236.5
Swedish crown	53.7 / 54.2
Swiss franc	224.5 / 227
U.K. sterling pound	356.5 / 362.7
U.S. dollar	337.3 / 340
W. German mark	186 / 187.9
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
18:20	Sana'a (LH)
18:30	Amman (RJ)
18:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
18:35	Kuwait (RJ)
18:30	Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
17:30	Baghdad (IA)
19:25	Beirut (ME)
08:40	Baghdad (AF)
DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
04:30	Doha (add.) (RJ)
08:00	Agaba (RJ)
12:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15	Athens, Bucharest (RJ)
12:30	Cairo (RJ)
12:45	Vietnam, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:15	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
18:35	Kuwait (RJ)
18:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
18:55	Baghdad (RJ)
21:00	Jeddah (RJ)
21:15	Cairo (RJ)
21:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
PRAYER TIMES	
03:49	Fajr
05:26	(Ghurayb) Dhuhr
12:36	Dhuhr
16:17	'Asr
19:46	Maghreb
21:24	'Isa
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	12 / 27
Agaba	22 / 35
Deserts	

Ambassadors awarded royal medals for service

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday conferring royal medals on five Jordanian ambassadors from the Foreign Ministry on the occasion of their retirement.

Al Kawkab Medal of the Second Order was conferred on Mr. Tayseer Touqan, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry,

and Mr. Amer Shammout. Al Istiklal (independence) Medals of the First Order were bestowed on Majed Al Haj Hassan, Mohammad Al Farra and Mohammad Khorma.

Both Mr. Touqan and Mr. Shammout had earlier been honoured with the independence medal on an earlier occasion.

Rifai, Iraqi minister discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday received visiting Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Mohammad Al Zubeidi. Talks between them dealt with existing areas of cooperation between the two countries in transport and communications and means of strengthening this cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhqan and Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ghafel Jassim Hussein.

Joint land transport company holds meeting

Mr. Zubeidi voiced his country's readiness to extend full support to the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company to develop its work and to increase its productivity to serve the flow of goods between the two countries.

Israel abuses environment in West Bank — Hamdan

NAIROBI (Petra) — Jordan has requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to conduct a study on the damage affecting the environment in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as a result of Israel's occupation of Arab land.

The request was made by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan, who was addressing the UNEP conference currently being held in Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Hamdan urged the UNEP to extend assistance to Arab municipal and village councils under Israeli occupation in the field of health.

In his address, the minister spoke about Israel's inhuman practices against the Arab population in the occupied West Bank and its confiscation of nearly 50 per cent of the total area of land under its occupation in the West Bank. He said that Israel has been intent on causing geographic and demographic changes

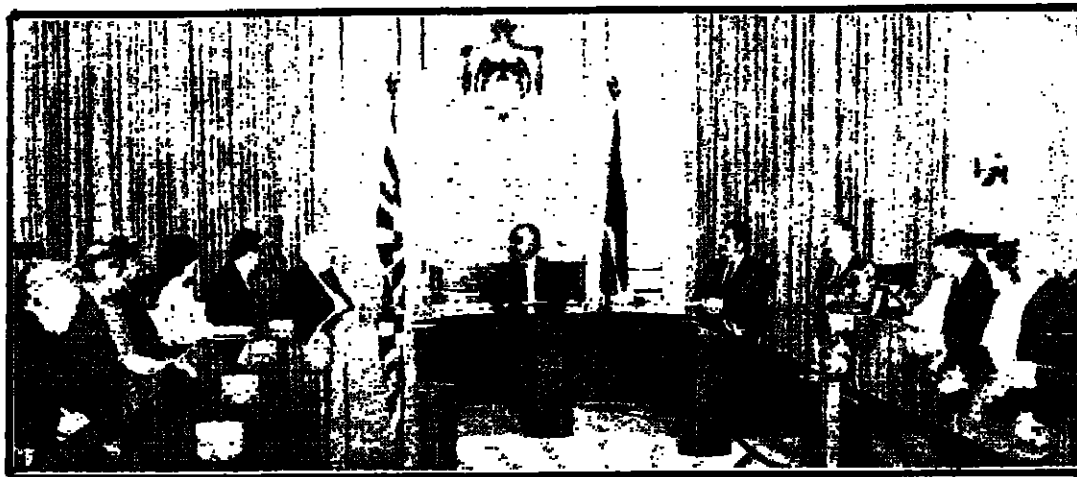
in the territory under its occupation and cutting down trees, thus exposing large areas of land to soil erosion, causing harm to land, and endangering the livelihood of the local population.

The minister also spoke about Israel's confiscation of water sources and its building of settlements, depriving the indigenous population of their rights and their land.

Mr. Hamdan outlined to the conference Jordan's efforts for protecting the environment and said that there are schemes for this endeavour in the current five-year national development plan.

He spoke about plans for protecting the environment and water resources, and efforts to stem desertification and create wild life reserves in the Kingdom.

At present, Jordan is holding contacts with international organisations for laying down a national strategy for the protection of the environment.



His Majesty King Hussein meets with a U.S. delegation of university professors, led by president of Brigham Young University, Jeffrey Holland, at the Royal Court on Sunday. Accompanying the delegation is U.S. ambassador at large David Kennedy.

Bank employees' forced resignation prompts action by union, ministry

By Salameh B. Nematt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least 32 employees in two foreign banks here have been forced to resign and there are several more in other banks who are threatened with mass dismissal, banking sources told the Jordan Times.

The forced resignation of 18 employees in the British Bank of the Middle East and 14 employees of the Grindlays Bank Ltd. was described by the president of the General Union of Bank Employees as "a form of arbitrary mass dismissal."

Mr. Haidar Rashid told the Jordan Times the two banks "have been calling these employees one by one and telling them their services were no longer needed, giving them the choice of either resigning and getting all their dues or face being fired."

Mr. Rashid said the union has taken action through the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, which is currently negotiating with the managements of the two foreign banks. The two banks have made tentative commitments not to carry on with their summary dismissals.

The Cairo Amman Bank management is also planning to take measures to fire an unspecified

number of its employees, Mr. Rashid said. "We have informed the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and demanded a halt on the dismissal decision."

There has been no formal commitment on the part of any bank regarding similar action against their staff. Mr. Rashid said that his union was involving the central council for the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions to protect the rights of threatened bank employees. Under the Jordanian labour law, if the General Union of Bank Employees protests, the Cairo Amman Bank cannot take action on firing any of its employees, as it is reportedly planned.

Banking sources said that Grindlays Bank Ltd. had plans to force five other employees to resign and that a decision has been taken by the Jordan Gulf Bank to fire 11 of its staff. But there have been no official confirmation.

"The numbers of those threatened with dismissal is much greater," Mr. Rashid said. He urged all bank employees from Jordan not to respond to management pressure. "Unfortunately, all those who have agreed to resign have lost all chances to return to their work."

In consultation with the general union, Labour and Social De-

velopment Ministry Under Secretary Saleh Khasawneh is currently in charge of negotiations with the managements of the involved banks. The ministry is responsible for checking whether these banks are complying with labour laws. The ministry however could not take any disciplinary action against the banks in cases where employees agreed to resign.

The General Union of Bank Employees has informed the ministry that following several rounds of negotiations, the union had failed to reach an agreement with the management of the Cairo Amman Bank on several important points. The union urged the ministry to intervene to solve the labour dispute and halt the mass dismissal of bank employees.

Referring to the Grindlays Bank and the British Bank of the Middle East, the union said it condemned the measures taken by these banks to force the resignation of several employees by threatening them with dismissal coupled with financial incentives.

"This is an arbitrary measure that is incompatible with humanitarian and administrative norms," the union said. "It is a clear attempt to put the burden of the worsening (financial) situation of their establishments on their employees."

King receives U.S. team of university professors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein conferred at the Royal Court on Sunday with a delegation of American university professors and teachers, led by Jeffrey Holland, president of Brigham Young University in Utah. The delegation is accompanied by a team representing the Mormons, a Christian denomination based in the United States.

In a brief speech, the King underlined the need for more efforts aimed at achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East, acceptable to the future generations. He called for Jerusalem to be safeguarded as a holy city for all monotheistic religions of the world and a symbol of peace.

The delegation was accompanied by Mr. David Kennedy, U.S. ambassador-at-large, who spoke at the meeting paying tribute to King Hussein's efforts for achieving peace in the region and expressed the appreciation of the American people for his endeavours.

Mr. Kennedy also said that the American visitors were impressed by the development and prosperity in the Kingdom and that Brigham Young University in Utah will dispatch students to Jordan to study Arabic and Islamic cultures.

Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Jordan's ambassador to the United States, Mohammad Kamal, were present at the meeting.

Later on Sunday, Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath met the

visiting U.S. delegation and discussed with them several international humanitarian issues.

Prime Hassan outlined to the guests Jordan's contribution towards supporting the international youth movement and other humanitarian issues, including treating homeless children, displaced refugees, as well as efforts towards combating hunger.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai conferred in his office Sunday with Mr. Kennedy and the American delegation.

They discussed aspects of cooperation between Jordanian and American universities. This included the question of exchanging expertise and teachers, funding scholarships, and supporting the Institute of Islamic Studies at Brigham Young University. Ambassador Mohammad Kamal was present at the meeting.

Rifai meets team

Unemployed doctors on HHC agenda

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh today chairs a meeting of the Higher Health Council (HHC) in Jordan to discuss the problem of unemployed physicians.

A committee created by the HHC had earlier proposed a number of recommendations calling for unemployed doctors to be used to supervise the health of students in schools and colleges.

The committee also suggested that the HHC contact Arab countries in a bid to persuade them not to terminate the services of Jordanian doctors and also to take measures to encourage Jordanian doctors to work in rural regions of the Kingdom.

The committee also suggested that the HHC orient tawjihi students on the situation of unemployed doctors in Jordan.

The study, to be reviewed by the HHC, predicts that by 1990, the total number of doctors in Jordan will rise to 5,067, while Jordan is in need only of the services of 3,245 doctors.

Dr. Hamzeh Sunday chaired a meeting of the Health Ministry's Planning Committee to study ways of encouraging doctors and staff in the medical profession, employed by the Health Ministry, to pursue private study and increase their medical knowledge.

The meeting discussed a programme of lectures and seminars which these employees can attend

to raise their efficiency, skill and performance.

Also on Sunday, the Health Ministry decided to enlarge Mafraq hospital by building an annex at the cost of JD 150,000, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The new annex will have an additional 50 beds and work on the project will commence in the coming month, Petra said.

The minister also decided to open a new health centre in Baqih in Karak Governorate to provide integrated health services to the local population.

CAA group heads for India

AMMAN (Petra) — A Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) delegation, led by CAA Director General Amin Al Hussein, Sunday left for India. The delegation will hold talks with officials at the Indian civil aviation authority.

Recently honoured nurse tells of horrors faced in camp siege

Dr. Pauline Cutting and Susan Wighton, two British medics who served in the Bourj Al Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp during the siege by the Amal militia earlier this year, were honoured by Queen Elizabeth II on Saturday. The two medics survived the shelling and blockade of the camp, often forced to eat dog meat, and also managed to attend to the medical needs of the inhabitants under the most primitive conditions. The following is an interview Susan Wighton gave to the Jordan Times in which she describes the trial and often horror of everyday existence in the camp during the siege.

By Josephine Zanabiri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Susan Wighton holds a bundle of curled photographs. She quickly scrutinises each in turn and in the soft blur of a Scottish accent, she explains the devastation of each face hopefully smiling out of the photo. "This boy had his arm blown off; later his father was killed by sniper fire and his mother was wounded."

She turns to another darkened photograph: "This boy was wounded three times and his friend was killed on Christmas day."

She places that photo aside and gently smoothing over the end curls, selects another and points to a smiling boy: "His father was killed and his uncle's legs were shot off."

The photographs she passes one behind the other, are a record of the horrors of the daily lives of the Palestinians living in the camps of Lebanon. The matter-of-factness in Susan's voice underlines the bitterness of her experience during the Amal siege of the Beirut camps.

Susan, a nurse, arrived in Beirut on Sept. 10, 1986 and worked with two other foreign medical workers, a Briton, Dr. Pauline Cutting, and a Dutch nurse, Mr. Ben Allofs, in the camp of Bourj Al Barajneh.

She recalls her first impressions of the camp which is situated on the outskirts of west Beirut. "The rebuilding of the camp had not been permitted after the 1982

Israeli invasion and the effects of that 45 day war were still felt in Bourj Al Barajneh."

She showed a photograph of the devastated camp: Buildings with their top stories demolished, walls collapsed in a pile of rubble, gaping holes rather than windows. She points to the site of an earlier clinic; now, little remains of it. The present clinic is slightly better off, although she adds, "one story was blown off in the 45 day war and the next two during the siege."

Siege begins

Susan vividly remembers the beginning of the siege. "I was sitting drinking coffee and looking at pictures of Austria when we heard an enormous explosion, a B7 rocket. We had been expecting the confrontation for some time as the Amal forces had been grouping around the camp for several weeks."

The weapons used against the camps caused horrific maiming and death, frequently to women and children, she explains.

The bullet of the M16, although small — she holds up a very white, small Scottish hand and indicates the size with the tip of her smallest finger — "yet it causes incredible suffering." When such a bullet penetrates the human body, it skewers, and in say an area between the neck and the waist, four organs can be damaged requiring an operation ranging between three and eight hours.



Dr. Pauline Cutting

Many of the camp women were hit by the bullets from M16s. Whilst sniper fire took a heavy toll in the camps, shelling and mortar became a daily occurrence, Susan points out.

"We could see Shi'ite women from inside the camp; they always walked slowly on their daily shopping trips. I asked the Palestinians, 'why don't they run like the women of the camp.' And they replied, 'we don't shoot at women, they know they are safe.'"

She continues: "For the women of Bourj Al Barajneh, the siege was unbearable. Long before the winter war, any Palestinian man who ventured out of the camp could easily be killed or kidnapped; dragged out of a service and never seen again. So the burden of procuring food supplies always fell to the women. During the siege itself, they risked their lives daily to find food for their families."

Prior to the siege, she explains, sand hills had been erected around the perimeter of Bourj Al Barajneh camp allowing tanks easy firing angles into the camp. Consequently, defence of their homes was very difficult as Palestinians risked exposure on the sand hills as they had no tanks or heavy weaponry.

'You had ten seconds'

Susan tenses her shoulders as she recalls day to day life during the siege. "If the tanks were close enough to hear, you had about ten seconds before shelling started. The loading of mortars allowed about twelve seconds to find cover."

Susan made house visits during the siege. "As a community health worker, it was my job to visit those unable to go to the clinic, mothers with new born babies, people with serious wounds or health problems."

"However, moving around the camp during the shelling was a nightmare," adds Susan. "Sending out a stretcher for a wounded person could mean the death of five or six people as those carrying the injured back to the clinic could all be blown away."

The journey to the small hospital was not only dangerous but highly traumatic for the children of the wounded as the injured person had to be carried through the narrow streets of the camp in full view of their families. "Children watched their mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters rushed bleeding and often horribly wounded through the streets to the clinic. Nothing could be hidden from them," she adds.

Procuring food supplies became the priority of women in the camp, continues Susan. For the first months of the siege, "we had enough food," she says, "but after that we had no vegetables and lived on rice and burghul. From January to February we started to feel dizzy, the effects of the starvation diet. When we first arrived in the camp, the injured from the 45 day war were healing. However, during the siege, many suffered relapses. Everyone had malnutrition towards the end and we all had scabies and head lice," she adds, running her hand through her soft blond hair.

Two metre high piles of rubbish

All the camps had both electricity and water supplies cut off and hygiene became a pressing problem in Bourj Al Barajneh. Susan indicates with her hand the size of the rubbish piles as no one could remove the refuse from the camp. It was simply too dangerous. She produces several photographs showing two metre high piles of rubbish swept neatly into an unused corner of the crowded camp.

She recalls the state of the clinic by the end of the siege. "Sewerage flowed down one wall," she points to an ugly black smudge drift down a once white wall behind the operating table. "We ran out of fuel and people burnt their few possessions in order to cook and try to stay



Dutch nurse, Mr. Ben Allofs with some of the wounded women of the camp.

warm. In the clinic, we cut up our furniture too," she shivers remembering the terrible impoverishment of the camp.

Life in Bourj Al Barajneh during the siege she likens to harsh prison conditions where people are subjected to sensory deprivation. "We were prohibited from anything which made life bearable; we had no light, no fuel, barely sufficient food and towards the end no food and no medical supplies."

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) attempted to send trucks to supply the beleaguered camp. The trucks were allowed to within sight of the camp, where they would be halted by the Amal militia. Before the trucks were allowed to pass, half the food had to be given to Amal, says Susan. "Frequently, after they had unloaded the stores they wanted, the militia men would rocket the trucks with B7s and destroy the truck and its precious cargo in front of the starving Palestinians," she adds.

Death passage

Day to day existence became impossible. "The women of the camp," says Susan, "ran great risks trying to bring water to their families and attempting to move across the 'death passage', a 200 metre corridor from the camp to the Jarbut building under Amal control. It was the only unblocked exit from Bourj Al Barajneh. "They were constantly harassed," says Susan. "Sometimes one or two women would be permitted to scurry across and then the one following would be shot at."

She recalls one of the many horrible incidents on the death passage. "A young woman, Haji Ahmed Ali, was shot down on the corridor. The people in the camp called to the stricken woman and she managed to signal with her foot that she was still alive. Those venturing to bring

her back were shot at and Haji lay bleeding to death on a dirty patch of no man's land. Some time later, two women risked their lives to bring the nearly dead woman back to the camp." Prior to Haji's shooting on the 'death passage' sixteen women had been shot dead along its 200 metres.

"Amal made a policy of shelling streets rather than buildings," adds Susan. "And many women were killed during their daily endeavour to find both food and water." Susan relates that many of the women in the camp repeatedly asked: "Why are other Muslims doing this to us?"

They were appalled at the treatment meted out to them, from verbal abuse, physical attacks to a deliberate policy of annihilation," adds Susan.

The children of the camp fared very badly too, she adds. Her photographs are covered with the smiling faces of limbleless children, bandages wrapped around leg stumps, heads or tiny chests. "They are remarkably aware and kind," she says and they understood the situation far better than we did."

Most of the children had experienced death and their games were "very accurate plays on day to day life in the camp. You would hear their little voices piping up with lines such as, 'hurry we can't get the wounded out.'"

Towards the end of the siege, many people died because they could not receive adequate medical care. "We had no neurological facilities," recalls Susan "and no ventilators (needed to clear the airways of the wounded). Many of the patients who had responded to earlier medical treatment suffered relapses, due to lack of adequate drugs."

"In Bourj Al Barajneh one in every fifteen people was killed on wounded. In Shatilla, one in every five." Susan pauses a little remembering the agony of the siege.

"It was all so senseless."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ambassadors credentials received

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Ministry Secretary General Tayseer Toukan Sunday received copies of the credentials of newly appointed South Yemen's ambassador to Jordan, Mohammad Abdo Shafat, and newly appointed Cypriot ambassador to Jordan, Nicolas Makris.

Arab Ports Union to open meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Ports Corporation Director General Eid Al Fayez Sunday left for Damascus to take part in the meetings of the Arab Ports Union which will open in Latakia, Syria on Monday under his chairmanship. The meeting will discuss the union's budget for this year and its present and future work plans, as well as measures for developing the union's work.

Israeli activist faces questioning

(Continued from page 1)

banning meetings with PLO officials "an anti-democratic step of the first order."

Last November, a 29-member delegation of Israeli leftists met with PLO officials at the Black Sea resort of Continsti in Romania.

Four Israeli leaders of that delegation are currently on trial for violating the anti-terrorism law. Police are scheduled to pre-

sent evidence in the trial Wednesday.

By issuing a summons only to Mr. Biton police could be trying to enforce the law to the minimum because of his immunity from prosecution. He praised authorities for being fair by summoning only him and not other group members.

"I will call the investigator and tell him to come to my office. If he wants to come, please, and if not, so be it," said Mr. Biton.

King underlines role of well-founded education in development

(Continued from page 1)

graduates, most students have been enrolling in community colleges or going abroad for higher education. But the problem remained with the inability of absorbing the increasing number of graduates who solved their first problem by acquiring education but failed to find solutions for the second problem of finding employment.

"Thus Jordan is now facing a new phenomenon: the excess in the number of graduates over available jobs. Those who have acquired higher education and graduated from universities sought to educate themselves and the degree should not always be a means for seeking clerical jobs in government offices shunning

manual work.

"Second, one must look into the type of specialisation which our students should take at our community colleges and universities. We started off 25 years ago with one university which was limited in its faculties and specialisations, but soon it was developed to embody most specialisations. Then the country established a second, a third and a fourth university and a total of 55 community colleges 22 of which are private owned and all providing different social paramedical and engineering courses.

"At the same time basic changes were taking place around us in social and economic life and in opportunities for employment, and the needs of neighbouring Arab countries and also in the

movement of capital and investments. Yet higher education remained the same in Jordan following the same patterns without any coordination and without any consideration for avoiding duality and avoiding a waste of effort and funds.

"Thirdly, one must look into the level of education and it is right to boast of what others have said about our education being of a high standard. But regardless of its standard, education had been affected by the number of students seeking higher education and the types of specialisations they are seeking. In trying to address this situation one must be aware of the inter-relationship among these issues.

"In trying to improve the standard of education we must direct

our attention to three basic requirements: Scientific research linked to our national needs; Keeping track with fast developing scientific progress in human knowledge; and enhancing the principle of scientific thinking, in dialogue, research and analysis and trying to solve problems in scientific manner — free of superstitions. These requirements should form the main policy for all those responsible for higher education in universities since they can lead us to success and the accomplishment of our mission."

At the outset of the graduation ceremony on Sunday University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali delivered a speech paying tribute to King Hussein for his relentless efforts to spread

education to all parts of the Kingdom.

A total of 2,650 students graduated from the university and received their degrees from King Hussein at the graduation ceremony. Among these, 2,252 are received bachelor's degrees, 157 received master's degrees and three received doctorates. Forty-three were awarded diplomas and 195 received certificates for specialisations in vocation.

Among those attending the ceremony were Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez respectively, former prime ministers, Cabinet members and university professors as well as relatives of the graduates.

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Plea to be heeded

AFTER five months of rendering medical services to the Palestinian refugees of the Bourj Al Barajneh camp in Beirut which was besieged by Amal militia, Dr. Pauline Cutting returned to England. She narrated her first-hand experiences of the sufferings and those of the refugees to her countrymen. Since the Amal attacks on the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut started last September, an estimated 880 people were killed, several thousand men, children and women were wounded and maimed within the camps. The refugees lacked essential medical care, antibiotics, food and fuel; many reportedly resorted to eating cats and dogs for want of food. By all accounts, she stated, no human tragedy in recent history had been as tragic as that which befell the refugees in Beirut.

Dr. Cutting's heroic services to the Palestinian refugees came to be deservedly recognised when Britain's Queen Elizabeth made her an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) on Saturday. But, Dr. Cutting had expressed deeper concern to the British government over how the Palestine problem itself had originated.

"By the Balfour Declaration, we helped to create the problem," she said. By this she was alluding to the Balfour Declaration of 1917 in which Britain pledged to support the creation of a Jewish national home in Palestine. This remains till today the symbol of a great historical blunder in British policy-making in the Middle East. It catalysed the beginning of deprivation, displacement, carnage, limitless bereavement and bloodshed for a people who had possessed the ancient land of Palestine. The declaration made local and political circumstances easily favourable to the usurping Jewish wanderers to settle down to an area over which they did not hold any legitimate title.

Since the establishment of the Zionist state in the wake of World War II, British attitudes towards the political rights of the Palestinians remained mostly under the veil of silence. Just as Britain helped Israel to consolidate its gains in Palestine, the Jewish state has now become unresponsive to the rights of the Palestinian Arabs in all places, wherever their ill fate had directed them to settle down after the Zionist occupation.

Dr. Cutting said, "Britain owes a great debt to the Palestinians." She pleaded that Britain should do something now to alleviate the sufferings of those people. This represents an echo of the rumblings of a disturbed conscience clearly aware of the magnitude of Britain's share of injustice against the Palestinians. One can only hope that this echo will reverberate in the corridors of the newly elected parliament. If Britain cannot undo what has already been done, it can at least now lend support, both political and moral, to such international efforts that are designed to eliminate Israeli occupation of Arab lands and ultimately reinstate the Palestinian people on their own land.

It may be that Dr. Cutting would feel more honoured by the British government taking such steps than the encomiums showered on her for her altruism. Her plea should not go unheeded.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The road to peace

THE Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Marrack Goulding is due to start talks with Israeli government leaders today covering, among other things, the planned call by the U.N. secretariat for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference. No one knows yet how Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will coordinate his stand with his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in the talks with Mr. Goulding, but all indications point to the fact that such talks and U.N. moves cannot and will not bring about a change in Israel's official policy. Israel continues to adamantly refuse the idea of the international conference and is supported by the United States in this regard. The U.S.-Israeli stand is clearly designed to place obstacles in the way of any moves towards establishing peace that can ensure the return of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. What Israel and the United States want to see is a total capitulation by the Arabs and acceptance of Israel's terms for a settlement. Therefore we must warn that all efforts for convening the projected conference are not likely to succeed unless the Arabs are united and strong to a degree that can convince the Israelis that the only means before them is a comprehensive peace that cannot be ignored any longer. For this to happen the Arabs ought to speed up moves towards holding their long-awaited summit meeting at which Arab leaders can work out joint plans for a pan-Arab strategy.

Al Dustour: Hopes for peace

CURRENT contacts carried out by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar with different parties involved in the Gulf conflict and members of the U.N. Security Council are perhaps the most significant today in this respect. The seven-member Arab committee which met with Mr. De Cuellar in New York came out with the impression that the secretary general was saving no effort in the search for a settlement. The seven-member committee has been entrusted by the Arab League to seek support for endeavours to end the Iran-Iraq conflict; and barring obstacles by a superpower, the U.N. secretary general is bound to achieve a headway in his efforts designed to bring peace to the Gulf. Mr. De Cuellar and the whole international community have become convinced of the need for ending the war that has caused so much sufferings and tragedies and sapped the human and material resources of the countries in the Gulf region. Above all, this war which is constantly expanding and intensifying by land and sea poses a serious threat to world peace and security. We would like to see the two superpowers and the members of the Security Council joining hands with Mr. De Cuellar in his endeavours to arrive at a formula which can ensure peace. We hope that international efforts would end up with a Security Council resolution acceptable to both parties in the conflict and putting an end to all hostilities in the Gulf region.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lebanese resistance escalates

EVERY day we witness an escalation of the resistance activities against the Israeli occupation of Arab territories in Lebanon. In return, successive Israeli governments under the Labour or the Likud have been intent on stepping up arbitrary actions and carrying out increasing aggressive actions against the people of South Lebanon who resist occupation and the presence of the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army in their region. The Lebanese people have the right to do so in the face of Israel's continued repressive measures: The demolishing of Arab homes and the killing of men, women and children with no discrimination. The Israelis, armed to the teeth, have been conducting their atrocities believing that they would eventually stifle the voice of resistance and perpetuate their occupation of Lebanese soil. They believe that as time passes the Arab people will forget their homeland and their rights, and will stop struggling to regain them from the invaders. But what has been evident is that the more barbaric Israel's actions become the more determined the Arab people will be in their struggle against the neo-Nazi forces that are occupying their homeland.

The Siniora syndrome: What is behind the trend?

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

NOTWITHSTANDING his change of heart and the alteration of his decision to run for Jerusalem's City Council, Hanna Siniora's initial stance on running for election in Jerusalem is symptomatic of the emerging phenomenon of desperation and frustration among the Palestinian people with the snail-pace of the process of peace in the Near East. This new outlook on events surrounding the Palestinian conflict was also reflected in part by the thoughts and writing of an eminent professor at Bir Zeit University, Dr. Sari Nuseibeh, who concluded that after 20 years of occupation without an end in sight, the Palestinian should start thinking in terms of a bi-national state. What Hanna Siniora has suggested in his maverick decision to run for election under Israeli law is even more ominous and goes further than anything that has hitherto been expressed by the Arab population in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. And what Professor Sari Nuseibeh and Al Fajr newspaper editor-in-chief Hanna Siniora and like-minded people are saying across the River Jordan could be the epitome of two age-old adages often quoted by the Arabs everywhere: "Receiving the lashes is not like counting them," and "if you cannot beat them join them."

While understanding and appreciating the reasons behind the Siniora's syndrome, I hasten to caution that it is fraught with dangers for both Arab and Jew and has infinite implications for the two peoples. Given the socio-political and cultural gaps between the two peoples which could be defined as "gaps of civilizational dimensions", one is forced to conclude that durable peaceful co-existence between them is not probable. And while the fertility

rate of the Arabs under occupation has in fact dropped significantly in recent years and the difference between the respective fertility rates of Jews and Arabs have narrowed due to shared environmental conditions, still the Arab population under Israeli control and domination could very well reach 40 per cent of the total population in the territories now under Israeli rule within few decades. In the context of a unitary state or even a bi-national state, a struggle between the two peoples or communities over domination and control would surely ensue and compound their relations. Surely the Israeli leadership should be concerned about this inevitable consequence if they persist in keeping the peace process in a state of suspended animation and the Arab population and their territories under their control and domination. Likewise, the Arab leadership should realise that keeping their brethren in the occupied territories in bondage and under occupation for much longer will force them to seek alternate ways and means to rectify their conditions of subjugation, albeit such ways and means may not be in harmony with the aspirations of true Arab nationalism and outside the framework of the principles and guidelines formulated and articulated by the various Arab summits on the Palestinian conflict.

In effect what Mr. Hanna Siniora and like-minded people are proposing in their bold and daring thoughts, as misguided as they may be, is to serve notice on both Arab and Jew to hasten the peace process and bring it to swift fruition or face the consequences. Keeping the Arabs and their territories under occupation for another twenty years would be tantamount to a non-patriotic act

from the Arab perspective and a time-bomb from the Israeli perspective.

Of course everybody, whether Arab or Jew, is now gratified that Mr. Hanna Siniora has reconsidered his position on the election issue and can now sigh with relief. But Mr. Siniora's message to all of us is still there hanging ominously over our heads and souls. We are given yet another respite in order to accelerate the peace process. The international apathy to the Palestinian conflict as reflected in the just concluded Venice summit by the seven Western industrialised countries is a living testimony to the apparent indifference with which the West views the main conflict in the Near East. Unfortunately the Eastern bloc is guilty of the same perspective and orientation. This East-West shared apathy had prompted His Majesty King Hussein to seize upon the 71st anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt to caution the leaders of the Eastern and Western blocs against their continued strategy of just containment vis-a-vis the main crises in the Near East especially with regard to the Palestinian conflict.

Perhaps the responsibility for the international non-chalance rests squarely on the shoulders of the Arab countries. Maybe we should have done more to make the world see our paramount crisis in the Near East as a flash-point which calls for urgent and effective remedies. But whatever and wherever the responsibility lies for the apparent inaction towards the Palestinian conflict, we should not corner our people in the occupied territories in situations which could prompt them to take desperate actions.

In Kfar Biram the message reads 'We Shall Return'

By Paul Christopher

THE ruins of the long abandoned village of Kfar Biram are perched in a lush and wooded stretch of the eastern upper Galilee. At its back, as the hills continue their upward sweep, lies the border with Lebanon, just five kilometres away. Beneath the village the hillsides tumble steeply to meet the valleys below. Kfar Biram is all but lost to casual view and only reveals its ghostly silhouette when approached from the west, its outline (until recently) blurred by the anarchy of vines which entombed the crumbling masonry. Forty years ago this place was home to a community of just over seven hundred people, mostly Maronites with a handful of Muslims and Melkites. Today it is little more than a toilet stop for the coach loads of tourists on their Holy Land tour, and what lures them here are the remains of a second century synagogue and the burial place of Queen Esther.

In the heart of the village stand a number of Greco-Roman pillars which formed the portico of the synagogue. The presence of a ticket office, iron railings and an array of notices, seem as much a reaffirmation of Jewish dominion here as Esther's tomb itself. Indeed, the notice which first greets the visitor implies that the village ruins belong with those of the synagogue. In a region where to kick at the dust is to reveal the growth and waste of dynasties, clearly what matters here is the history of today's winners. That Kfar Biram should now find itself classified as a historical site is a bitter irony, for its own ruins lie in unacknowledged testimony to the Palestinian exodus of 1948.

On Christmas eve 1948, a detachment of Israeli soldiers arrived in Biram and ordered the villagers to evacuate their houses. It was, they said, a purely temporary measure in view of forthcoming

military operation in the area. The villagers shuffled off to shelter among the olive groves on the slopes below. After a fortnight, their patience exhausted, a deputation set off to Biram to discover if the way home was clear. Troops blocked their path and told them that the land was theirs no more. As one inhabitant recalls: "The betrayal cut like a knife. A few of the men were bitterly angry... others simply bewildered." In despair, the villagers trekked across to the neighbouring village of Jish to seek help. They found only ten elderly folk who told them that their village too had suffered a similar fate. In Jish though, no ruse had been employed, just levelled guns, and nearby were the shallow graves of twenty-four people who had been too slow to get the message. The rest had fled across the border into Lebanon.

The Biramis settled in Jish and tried to pick up the thread of their lives. Early in 1949 (but not for the last time) troops arrived to interrogate them over alleged terrorist activities. Some of the men were made to stand all day in the sun and on the following morning were taken in trucks and dumped over the Jordanian border. Three months later, a few managed to return secretly to Jish but the others dispersed, moving north toward Damascus. Life went on, and for the lucky few there were jobs in the newly established Kibbutz of Biram which had conveniently appropriated much of Biram's land for its own.

By October 1951, the supreme court issued an injunction against the military to show cause why the exiled villagers could not return. Compensation was offered in accordance with the laws governing absentee or abandoned property, including alternative lands, both

as part compensation and on leasehold to farm for the time being. Six families took up the offer, the others could not bear to sign away their still visible possessions. Even when two representatives of the Maronite Church, the Patriarch and Bishop Mubarak, came over from Lebanon in an effort to mediate they were, records the prime minister's office, "unable to bring the Biram-inhabitants to change their stubborn attitude." By December, the military governor ordered Biram, a "closed area."

Meanwhile, the government renewed its offers, even the building of houses in Jish, but these were all turned down. Almost two years passed, when in September 1953, the matter was finally settled with the military bombing the village. The village priest wrote a letter to Ben Gurion, "we still see that the Israeli government does not have enough by destroying our homes... still trucks come and take the stones of our houses to places unknown to us, and we also see the flames burning our orchards of fruit... For five years we have faced these difficulties, we get our food by hard work and our prize was the destruction of our homes. And this was not enough, our military passes were taken from us after the destruction of our village... as if the government want to annihilate us by hunger now we are unable to get our food..."

Across the intervening years periodic reminders filter into the media about the fate of Biram. The villagers and their descendants keep the memory alive. The church has been restored, the vines cleared, books written and on every Christmas eve they make a pilgrimage back to Biram. On the back of the church wall a number of slogans have been painted, their message reads: "We shall return."

Soviet proposal on German reunification fires imaginations

By Herbert Kremp

ARE reports of a Soviet proposal to consider German reunification bona fide? Or are they just speculation launched by a handful of Germans?

Either way, they have promptly triggered a public debate that has outstripped disarmament.

They preoccupy the imagination not only in terms of a greater or lesser threat; they also fuel the fires of a German tendency to harbour illusions.

Germany is quick to see a possibility as a certainty. Mr. Gorbachev is said to have a grand design.

Preoccupation with the man sets aside sober appraisal of what is possible and increases the possibility of error. More and more people may be drifting further and further away from reality.

Moscow knows that the Germans are easily excited or upset. Under the new man in the Kremlin it has also come to realise that merely stirring up anxiety is not enough to gain political ground.

Anxiety doesn't last. It is deep-seated but fleeting — or at least tends to switch the object to which it attaches. It is unreliable.

Kremlin psychologists are convinced that to gain German support they must offer the Germans something constructive, something likely to keep them preoccupied with themselves.

An evergreen in this respect is the Germans' predisposition to concern themselves with the future of their country, divided since the end of World War II.

The Soviet Union has made several attempts to rechannel in their own direction political currents in Europe and further afield, the first being between 1952 and 1954.

Stalin started the ball rolling. Khrushchev had another go in 1964. On both occasions power changed hands — in Moscow.

Yet Soviet strategists have only ever had one aim in view: To prevent, forestall or break up the Atlantic alliance, which would not be viable without the Federal Republic of Germany as a member.

Encouraging German introspection and eliminating the very foundation of an effective U.S. political and military presence in Europe is a lasting Soviet aim.

The incorporation of the Federal Republic of Germany (and Japan) in the pattern of U.S. alliances is the most serious political defeat the Soviet Union has suffered since the war — followed in 1960 by the loss of China as a Soviet ally. The successors of Sta-

lin and Khrushchev have consolidated their empire, holding it together by force and arming it to world power status in military terms.

But that was as far as their energy went. Further economic or foreign policy progress was not possible. The Soviets have failed to get rid of the Americans, which they find most unsatisfactory.

That is why every Soviet leader who sets himself the target of creatively safeguarding his power will make a fresh attempt to break the bounds of his military borders and drive the United States out of Eurasia.

The incentive Moscow can offer Japan — the Kurile islands — is less interesting than the option it can offer a divided Germany.

Both the German domestic debate and the Euro-American debate show how the Soviets can make military, political and psychological gains by disarmament proposals involving partial U.S. withdrawals from Europe.

What is lacking is the grand design, the offer that can't be refused.

If Mr. Gorbachev establishes a link of any substance between military disengagement and political solutions for continental Europe — a link the Americans at present fail to establish —

Stalin Note

Speculation about a possible offer of German reunification terms by Mr. Gorbachev calls to mind the so-called Stalin Note of March 1952. In a note to the Western powers dated 10 March 1952 the Soviet leader said Moscow might be prepared to consider German reunification on a basis of neutrality and limited rearmament. Stalin's offer was viewed by Chancellor Adenauer and his Bonn government and by the three Western allies as a tactical move designed to upset plans to incorporate the Federal Republic of Germany in the Western alliance. They turned it down. As important political documents and minutes have yet to be released for publication by official archives, politicians and historians still disagree on whether the rejection of Stalin's offer was a genuine missed opportunity of reunifying Germany — Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz.

progress, as Count Lambsdorff says with a post-Bismarckian gesture, might be made.

It certainly would in Germany, and be it only as the result of misinformation. It alone could be enough to make the national debate in Germany come to a head over the country's elected political representatives.

Mr. Gorbachev and his planners may be fascinated by the idea of a Pax Sovietica in Europe, militarily and politically ejecting the United States from Europe by means of disengagement and setting up a German federation (not a reunited Germany) with an economic bias toward the East.

But this move would lead to the loss of Soviet chessmen on the international board. The nations of eastern central Europe and Germans east of the Elbe would tend toward a "neutral," middle-of-the-road position.

Would the glue of the Soviet empire be sufficient to keep them together? That is very hard to tell — Die Welt, Bonn.

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Desertification: What can be done

The following is part two in a two-part essay on desertification published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Part one appeared in yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times.

WHAT effects does desertification have on its victims? Those affected are mainly the rural poor. With small incomes, little or no land and scant political power, survival depends on the success of a few crops or the sale of a few animals. As productivity falls, extraordinary measures may have to be taken to survive. In the Peruvian Sierra, where the cold desert is arriving following massive deforestation, houses are now heated only when food is being cooked, and workers must survive with only one cooked meal a day.

As crops fail, domestic animals die, water sources dry up and fuelwood becomes more and more difficult to obtain, the prospects of survival dwindle. Often, they do so slowly, almost imperceptibly. Nutritious grasses are gradually replaced by less palatable ones, forcing livestock to search larger areas for their food; farmers are forced to move onto steep hillsides and areas previously considered too infertile to warrant cultivation. Water sources become polluted with silt and salt. And the tree products on which rural families throughout the developing world depend — for everything from food and fuel to rope, medicines and dyes — become virtually unobtainable. This is the way the wasteland spreads: as T.S. Eliot put it, "not with a bang but a whimper."

People living on the desert fringes are used to hardship; over the centuries, they have evolved elaborate mechanisms for coping with their harsh environment. Nomadic pastoralists in the Sahel have learned to increase their stock during wetter periods as an insurance against the drought. But when over-cultivation and over-grazing lead to permanent and increasing losses in yield, traditional means of dealing with crisis fail. The quality of life, already low, deteriorates further. Life becomes little more than a form of chronic disaster.

The typical chain of events that occurs starts with crop yields falling and animals dying from lack of fodder. Industries based on crop and animal products then begin to fail. Unemployment rises and people get poorer. Food production falls, food imports rise, and economic chaos ensues. Governments often fail.

Desertification produced dramatic results in the mid-western United States during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. It is now

producing even more dramatic results, in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

For those directly affected, there is in the end only one choice: To move.

Migration to cities and other countries is a common result of desertification; during the Sahel drought of the early 1970s, nearly one million "environmental refugees", a sixth of the population, fled from Burkina Faso (then Upper Volta). Half a million more fled from nearby Mali. The victims of desertification in central America and Haiti fill the cities of the United States; in India, they swell the already teeming cities of the Punjab; and in Brazil, where in the north-east of the country desertification threatens an area the size of western Europe, they flock to already over-crowded cities such as Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Because desertification is caused by human action, it can be controlled and cured by human action. And, technically, the solutions are not difficult.

The basic answer is improved forms of land use: Better farming systems, an end to over-grazing and over-cropping, sand dune fixation, the erection of wind-breaks and shelter belts, reforestation, and improved soil and water conservation.

At the local level, there have been many successes using these techniques over the past few years. Green belts have been planted round some of the Sahel's capital cities, such as Ouagadougou and Niamey. Algeria has reforested more than 250,000 hectares. Ethiopia has terraced eroded land on 35 watersheds in the central highland plateau. Sudan is restocking its gum belt. Rajasthan is planting roadside shelter belts and Peru has begun an enormous reforestation programme to save some of its Andean Sierra. China has been reforesting at the rate of 1.5 million hectares a year. Wind-breaks have been successfully established in Niger's Moutia valley. And while rangeland programmes have been conspicuously less successful, one in Syria has managed to restore productivity to the country's steppes, raising its sheep population from 2.9 million in 1960 to 8.8 million in 1980. The Republic of Korea, India and Nepal have demonstrated that social forestry programmes — operated by the villagers themselves — can be successful. Land can be reclaimed, trees planted, and fuelwood and fruit supplies restored, providing valuable income to hill dwellers whose livelihood had been destroyed by bad land-use management.

Why the battle is being lost Unhappily, although these are

substantial achievements, they compare poorly to the rate of damage. The battle to protect the Earth from desertification is not being won, and the goal of arresting desertification seems more distant now than it did in 1977, at the time of the U.N. Conference on Desertification (UNCOD). Why?

One reason is that the money to combat desertification has not been made available on the scale recommended at UNCOD. Furthermore, donors have tended to support projects only marginally connected with desertification, such as the provision of new roads, rather than the more difficult but less expensive projects of direct relevance. Often, they have proved unwilling to finance the recurrent costs of projects that are essential to their long-term success: Trees may be planted and sand dunes stabilised but the effort is wasted without concrete provision to ensure that the trees are protected long enough to become established, and that the dunes are stabilised long enough for new vegetation to take root.

The affected countries, for their part, have failed to take the problem seriously enough. It cannot be solved piecemeal and without long-term commitment. One requirement is a national plan to combat desertification, and UNEP has been providing assistance to countries requesting help in making such plans. But few have asked for this help, and even fewer have actually prepared plans.

One that has is Tunisia. Thanks partly to help from UNEP, the country now has a national strategy to combat desertification, and a carefully itemised list of 21 priority projects to be completed by 1992. Covering areas such as the mapping of natural resources, agricultural development, research, training, and monitoring and assessment, these projects have attracted finance from several individual countries as well as from a number of international organisations.

There is thus a case for a massive mobilisation of resources to fight desertification. More people, and more governments, must be made aware of the severity of the threat if this is to happen. The affected countries will themselves have to take the issue more seriously than they have done in the past. Both donors and recipients of aid can, however, build on the lessons of the past decade, some of which are remarkably clear.

The first is that one pre-condition for success in field projects is community participation. Pro-

jects in which the people themselves plan and run their own self-help schemes, on a small scale, have a much greater chance of success than large projects directed by distant bureaucrats.

Secondly, the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), particularly local ones, have had a remarkably successful track record in desertification projects. They have succeeded, for example, in getting trees planted in the Sahel where other, much larger projects have failed. The NGOs deserve all the encouragement and support they can get. On the other hand, the fact that the scale of their activities is small means that they alone could never hope to make more than a small dent in the overwhelmingly huge problem of global desertification.

It is easy to lose sight of the dimensions of the problem: an area the size of North and South America combined is involved, with a population of 850 million people, about one-fifth of the global population. Between half and a quarter of this land is already seriously affected; its productivity, in other words, has fallen by at least 25 per cent. NGOs may well be able to show the way but they alone are unlikely to win the battle.

How UNEP is helping

The United Nations Environment Programme is a catalysing, not an implementing, agency. Its role in combating desertification, as in other areas, is to create awareness of the problem, help formulate strategy and coordinate U.N. action.

UNEP was designated the agency to coordinate the U.N. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification which was formulated at UNCOD in 1977. It does this through the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification and by working with other bodies, such as the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, to mobilise support for desertification projects.

Most activities are carried out in conjunction with other agencies. Creation of greater public awareness of the issues is a job to which UNEP itself has paid particular attention. It has organised press visits to affected areas, helped finance an Earthscan press briefing guide on the subject, and supported a number of documentary films and filmstrips. These include the UNEP/Central Independent Television film *Seeds of Despair* that gave the outside world its first glimpse of the famine in Ethiopia, and the sequel *Seeds of Hope*, a six part series on land degradation and its solutions.

Your body will tell you when it is nap time

By Jamie Talan

LOS ANGELES — Tired after lunch? Downright groggy by 3 p.m.? You are not alone. Researchers have produced scientific evidence that humans — when given the chance — will sleep at least two times a day. The need for a "siesta" is keyed to the human biological clock, and missing a catnap can put the system out of kilter, experts say.

It makes perfect sense, at least outside of the United States. In many other cultures people return home at midday and eat and nap before they return to work. Even some animals have similar biological clocks.

New studies also suggest that siestas might make people more efficient in their afternoon work, simply because their sleep-wake cycles are in sync. The findings may have some practical applications, especially for people with shift schedules.

Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich, Germany, have devised an intriguing way to study midday sleep patterns. Jürgen Zulley and Scott Campbell of the institute had test subjects live in an underground bunker for days — with no music, writing, reading, alcohol, coffee or tea. The subjects have no way to judge time outside of their environment.

The subjects were merely asked to fall asleep whenever they felt the urge. Electrodes attached to their bodies helped researchers monitor the depth and length of each sleep cycle.

The German scientists found there were four-hour rhythms — periods of increased readiness to sleep — in addition to night sleep. Daytime sleeping occurred most often at 1 p.m., but shorter naps also took place at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

People in midday slumber for more than 90 minutes had deeper sleeps, followed by periods of dreaming.

In similar studies, Richard E. Kronauer, professor of mechanical engineering at Harvard University, found that people whose nap times at 5:30 p.m. slept for three hours, stayed up for eight hours and slept another four hours. In essence, their days were split in half.

If daytime snoozing is normal, what is the biological purpose of this short sleep?

According to Dr. Thomas Wehr, chief of the clinical psychobiology branch of the National Institute of Mental Health, the natural sleeping pattern might be the body's way of conserving energy, a form of temperature regulation.

For example, many people take a siesta in hot climates, where the midday sun makes the body use more energy to move about.

At the other extreme, night is the coldest time of day, another

period where the body needs more energy to carry out activities. "The reason sleep occurs at certain times of day might have to do with these temperature extremes," Wehr added.

If humans are genetically programmed to take naps, what is stopping us?

Wehr blames industrialisation for breaking this natural cycle. "Business interferes with many natural patterns of behaviour," he pointed out. Twenty-five per cent of Americans work shifts that prevent them from normal sleep. Many suffer mental and physical illnesses that can be linked directly to these erratic schedules.

Wehr says humans should take naps, but in the work-oriented 20th century, he added, "if everyone went home and took a three-hour break, there would be twice as many commuting hours, and all businesses would run less efficiently."

Dr. Charles Czeisler, a psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School, has worked with a number of companies, redesigning shift schedules to get the most out of the body's natural sleep rhythms.

He believes that modern shifts are too long and the rotations too frequent, which often sends the body's clock in the wrong direction: Backward. Kronauer, also at Harvard, hopes his split-day studies may help in arranging optimal work performance during shifts. For example, during the Falklands war, British soldiers had to fight by day and be ready at night to collect supplies that were carried in by plane. Based on the information of split sleep cycles, a British psychologist taught soldiers to sleep before and after their missions so that they could work at peak efficiency.

Researchers are getting closer to understanding this sleep mechanism. According to Wehr, the natural sleep pattern is a couple of hours in the daytime and 5 hours at night.

David Dinges, a biological psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania, has been studying nap patterns in college students for nearly a decade. At first, sleep researchers laughed at his idea that napping was biologically related to nighttime sleep, his colleagues thought napping was a sign of an underlying sleep disturbance. In 1975, Canadian researcher Dr. Roger Broughton published the first paper arguing that there was a biological basis for napping. Dinges continued in his own studies, coming up with similar conclusions.

Today he spends his time trying to get businessmen in industry to understand the relationship between sleep phases and peak accident times. According to Dinges, accidents peak at night, and a smaller peak occurs at midday.

— Los Angeles Times.

Kazakhstan: Mysterious spirals

MOSCOW (APN) — A new expedition of the Central Council of Societies for Protecting Historical and Architectural Monuments of Kazakhstan will thoroughly examine the mysterious spirals recently discovered on the Ustyurt Plateau.

They were noticed from a helicopter by experts studying ancient architectural monuments of western Kazakhstan. Those were strange pictures of enormous size, lined up in a spiral. Some of them resembled a circle.

Randa Habib's Corner

Noisy corpses

NO, this is not another obituary. The family of the late circles has asked me not to do that any more. They have chosen resignation and silence, as death is becoming so common among them.

So, after the Fourth, the Fifth, and the Seventh Circle, the Sixth Circle is also gone. And now if the Seventh Circle is resting in peace, that was not the case of some people in its neighbourhood. After midnight, and for several nights last week, bulldozers of the Amman Municipality carried pieces of stones from the "corpse" of the late circle to an empty lot at the edge of the Abdoun-Sweifeh area. The dreadful noise provoked by the unloading of stones kept all the neighbourhood awake as late as 3 in the morning. Children were kept awake and parents too. In the case of students preparing for their Twajjhi exams the following morning it must have been catastrophic.

One of the residents called the department concerned in the Greater Amman Municipality to enquire why should bulldozers work so late at night. The answer was: "We want to avoid disturbing the traffic at day, so we work at night." No problem, but does it have to be after midnight? There is not much traffic after 9 p.m. between the 6th Circle and Sweifeh. All the work could have been done and over with before 11 p.m. No need to disturb the sleep of the people who only wish, like our beloved circles, to "rest" in peace and quiet.

Can those who dig and tell keep on saying, 'trust us'?

By A.M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — This is an attempt to examine some questions about the press. For many years I was sure I had firm answers to them. But the questions are getting sharper and the answers murkier, which can be disconcerting.

The questions, put to me frequently by others and by myself, can be summed up this way: If the press is increasingly insistent on knowing more and more about the private lives of people in public life, does it not have the ethical obligation to tell more and more about itself?

To start: Should journalists make their finances public? Not just salaries but investments, inheritances and earnings from lectures and books? We want to know the last dollar's worth about officials. Many in the press influence public affairs more than most officials.

And how about financial information, not only from top editors and executives but from editorial writers, columnists, reporters and desk editors, who are often more important than their chiefs in day-to-day presentation of the news?

And is the reader or viewer entitled to know the political inclinations of the correspondents who cover Congress or the White House? Did they ever give money to Nicaraguans, pro or contra?

Now, let's get to it. Correspondents and editors, have you ever committed adultery? Are you now? Homosexual experiences, any? Names, please.

And surely you will not mind, Mr. Publisher, if readers pitch in a few dollars each to put a secret cordon around your house at night, since your reporters extend that attention to others.

These are not new questions. We in the press always have been confident of the answer to questions about our own politics, sex lives and money.

We are not officials; our mission in life is to divorce our stories and news judgements from bias, and the only thing that counts is what we put in the papers or broadcast. So how we vote or what we belong to or what we think off the job does not matter. Who we are and what we do are not pertinent; just judge us on what we write and how we play the news.

Forty years of experience have

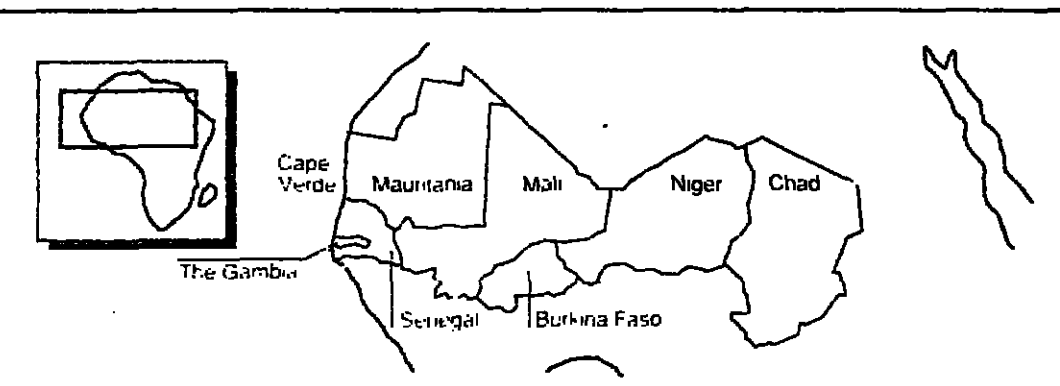
firmed rather than shaken my

— The New York Times.

The Sahel

WORLD attention was first focussed on desertification following the drought in the Sahel in the early 1970s, when between 50,000 and 250,000 people, and about 3.5 million head of livestock, perished. Since then, another drought (1982-84) has reduced stock numbers yet again.

Since 1977, desertification has worsened over much of the Sahel, particularly in Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal, even though about U.S. \$200 million have been spent on reforestation. On the other hand, projects with more specific objectives, such as sand dune stabilisation, have been more successful.



The area is one of the poorest in the world, with per capita incomes of less than U.S. \$400 a year, literacy levels of less than 25 per cent and life expectancy everywhere below 50 years. Most Sahel countries have large debts

and suffer severe shortages of foreign exchange. Populations are increasing by 2-3 per cent annually, and there is widespread migration to the cities, particularly the capitals, some of which are growing at more than 7 per cent

annually. By the year 2000, six of the Sahel countries — Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Burkina Faso — are expected to have an urban population of 11.8 million, a 224 per cent increase over 1975.

Outspoken media add spice to left-wing Burkina Faso

By Jean-Loup Fievet

OUAGADOUGOU — The sleepy capital of impoverished Burkina Faso comes suddenly to life every Friday morning when civil servants, politicians, army officers and diplomats scramble to the news-stands for their weekly dose of malice and muck-raking.

They are avid readers of *L'Intrus*, a tabloid collection of cartoons and gossip columns that exposes corruption cases and in-fighting within the country's ruling circles, complete with names, facts and figures.

On a continent where official newspapers and state-run broadcasting are the rule, the independent satirical review helps to give left-led Burkina Faso one of the liveliest media scenes in French-speaking West Africa.

"The 1983 revolution has unexpectedly spawned one of Africa's most important magazines as well as one of its most entertaining radio stations," an admiring Western diplomat said.

The newly-created radio station, called Radio Entrez-Parlez, is, like *L'Intrus*, a brainchild of maverick journalist Jean-Hubert Bazie, a close adviser to the president, Captain Thomas

Sankara. "I am firmly convinced that the truth, especially when it hurts, is a powerful weapon to bring about changes in Africa," Bazie told Reuters.

L'Intrus calls itself "the weekly for scoop and fun" and will celebrate its first anniversary with a special issue later this month. Its name means "the intruder," or, more loosely, someone who rocks the boat.

It has an average circulation of 8,000 while the government daily *Sidwaya* (truth) sells between 3,000 and 3,500 copies a day.

Members of Burkina's political and military establishment as well as foreign diplomats are avid readers. In a recent issue, the paper accused the labour minister of lingering in bed late in the morning instead of being at work.

"Government ministers have often complained about us, but privately. Only one lodged a formal complaint about a story. Oddly enough, the man disappeared in a subsequent government reshuffle," said Bazie, who is the only known member of the editorial team and a former head of Sankara's press unit.

The editor relies on a network of unpaid informers. "But I personally double-check every

printed word to avoid landing the paper into legal trouble," he said. Critics of *L'Intrus* say the paper is astutely used by Sankara to settle scores with political opponents and rivals.

They claim Sankara, 37, who has steered the country on a radical course since seizing power in 1983, occasionally composes the paper's much-read editorial. Radio Entrez-Parlez (come in and talk) began broadcasting three months ago during weekends only, reaching a modest 15-km range.

It has a simple two-room studio and uses technical facilities provided by the information ministry. Advertising covers the cost of the five-member staff.

Like the state-run Burkina Radio, Entrez-Parlez carries official statements but favours live talk-shows and African music.

"Our studio is open to everyone who has something to say. We also ask ministers to explain their policies and answer questions from listeners on a variety of topics," presenter Nouboum Ouattara said.

Last weekend, Financial Resources Minister Talata Eugene Dondasse came to explain a government drive to collect tax arrears.

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Scottish tennis tourney finishes in shambles

EDINBURGH (R) — The Scottish grass court tennis championships, which began in farce on Wednesday, ended in shambles Sunday when Ivan Lendl quit his own eight-man tournament.

Lendl pulled out of his semifinal against Anders Jarryd due to influenza, leaving the Swede, who has played just one entire match, to face Ecuador's Andres Gomez in the final for the \$48,000 first prize.

The winner's prize in 1986 — before this 99-year-old event was revamped with the specific intention of giving Lendl unlimited grass court practice in the run up to Wimbledon — was a gift voucher for \$320.

But the 1987 championships have been doomed to ignominy from the first.

John McEnroe failed to turn up in Edinburgh, as did Frenchman Henri Leconte, Russian Andrei Chesnokov and American Aaron Krickstein. The weather has been abysmal, and the centre court at Craiglockhart some way short of international standard.

"If we had sat down and composed the worst possible scenario, we couldn't have been this creative," said Jerry Solomon, a

senior vice-president of the American sports management company which was promoting the event and which also looks after Lendl's affairs.

"Ivan has been in bed since Saturday afternoon and there was simply no way he could go out on that court. He's bitterly disappointed because his Wimbledon preparation was built around Edinburgh.

"Hopefully, Ivan will be able to travel to London Monday but I don't think he'll begin practice until Wednesday at the earliest."

Winner of five Grand Slam titles, including the French Open which he retained in Paris last Sunday, the world number one has dedicated the rest of his career to winning Wimbledon.

"Obviously this is a serious blow to his chances, but he's so strong and so determined I think it would be foolish for anyone to say Ivan won't still win this year," added Solomon.

"It appears Ivan picked up the

bug from his coach Tony Roche in Paris last week and he has spent the entire night and day sleeping in his darkened hotel room."

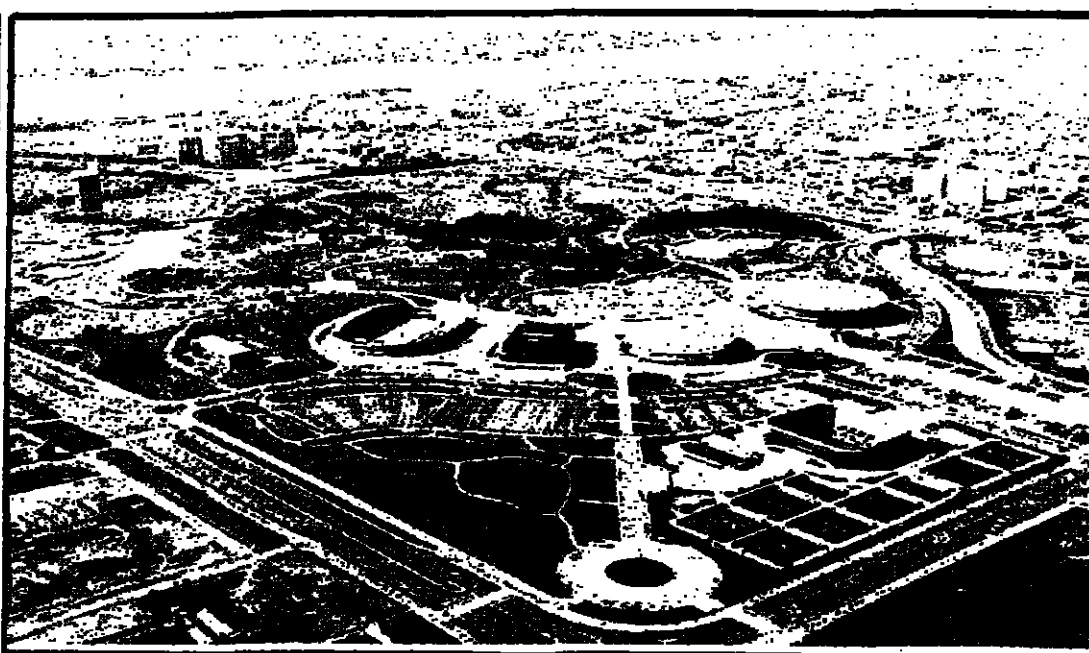
Ironically, 42-year-old Roche has been the busiest competitor in Edinburgh this week, losing 7-6, 7-5 to Lendl in the first round before reaching the final of the consolation event.

Lendl issued a statement through Solomon which read: "It has been a frustrating week for me. First with the weather and now with my illness I have not been able to play as much as I hoped.

"I apologise to the fans here that I am sick because they have been very appreciative and supportive. The setting is very good, the Scottish people have been very friendly, and the Bank of Scotland is a very supportive sponsor," added Lendl from his sick bed.

Two of those fans, wearing Scotland soccer scarves and shirts, dismissed any notion they might feel a sense of disappointment at Lendl's withdrawal.

"We'd never heard of Ivan Lendl, we bought these tickets to see John McEnroe have a go at the umpire."



The Olympic Park in Seoul (photo by the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee)

S. Korean papers warn against marring Olympic preparations

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Two Seoul newspapers warned Sunday that recent political disturbances could affect the careful, elaborate preparations under way for the 1988 Olympics.

The newspapers quoted officials as saying they were worried about the protests.

Fears often have been expressed that North Korea would use such incidents to try to disrupt the 1988 summer games on the home grounds of rival South Korea.

Last Wednesday, in the southern city of Masan, police fired tear gas to try to control anti-government demonstrators. The fumes drifted over a soccer field during a match between Korea and Egypt in the President's Cup International Football Tournament.

Live television coverage showed players coughing, wiping their eyes and covering their mouths. The game was called and

later ruled a scoreless draw.

Roh Tae-Woo, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, expressed regret, but said he believed it was an isolated incident.

"The Olympics will be one big festival for all mankind," said Roh, chosen last week to succeed President Chun Doo-Hwan.

On Friday, a game between Korea and the United States was delayed about 30 minutes in the big southern port city of Pusan because of tear gas fumes from another anti-government protest.

The Korea Times said Sunday unidentified organisers of the Seoul Olympics were concerned about the recent "unfortunate" incidents during the soccer games.

"They have expressed worry over the potential impact of the unexpected incident on their painstaking preparations for the world sports festival," the Times said.

It quoted an official of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee as saying, "my head reels when I imagine what the foreign players will say of their experiences in Korea."

Another unidentified official was quoted as saying "we are confident of success."

The second official noted that before the opening of the Asian Games in South Korea last fall "many people worried" amid speculation that the games might be "marred" by radical student activists and other dissidents.

"But the Korean people carried out the international event successfully in total harmony," the official said.

He also was quoted as saying the organising committee held meetings immediately after the Masan incident, adding that "appropriate measures will be worked out to prevent such incidents in the days to come."

East Bloc athletes dominate international track meet

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Soviet pole vaulter Sergei Bubka and Czech discus thrower Zdenek Siliha posted wins as East Bloc athletes dominated the last day of a two-day international track meet.

The state news agency CTK reported late Saturday that Bubka, the world record holder with a vault of 6.01 metres, cleared 5.70 metres to win the event. Poland's Marian Kolasa was second at 5.50.

Siliha, who holds the women's world discus record at 74.56 metres, won the Czech meet with a throw of 68.62 metres. Bulgarian Tsvetanka Khristova was second at 68.30.

American Roger Kingdom, the Olympic champion in the 110-metre hurdles, was one of the few non-East European winners. He

covered the distance in 13.66 seconds, 0.26 seconds ahead of Ales Hoeffler of Czechoslovakia.

Jamaica's Bert Cameron, world record holder over 400 metres won that event with a time of 45.20 seconds. Nigeria's Moses Ugbesie was second at 45.57.

Bulgaria's Toma Todov finished in 49.41 seconds to win the men's 400-metre hurdles, edging Danie Ogidi of Nigeria. Ogidi was clocked in 50.01.

Cuba's Ana Quiroz turned in a time of 51.29 seconds to win the women's 400-metre hurdles, 0.70 seconds better than Bulgaria's Rositsa Stamen.

Ivan Slanar of Czechoslovakia leaped 17.25 metres to win the triple jump. Igor Lapsin of the Soviet Union was second with a leap of 17.11.

Bayern wins, Borussia equals record

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich, already assured of the West German First Division Championship, won 3-1 at Stuttgart Saturday to stay six points clear at the top.

Lothar Matthaus (2) and Ludwig Kogel hit Bayern's goals, while Juergen Klinsmann scored for the home side.

But the day belonged to Borussia Moenchengladbach who equalised Eintracht Frankfurt's league record of nine successive victories by winning 4-2 at Cologne.

Uwe Rahn scored twice for Borussia and tops the league scoring list with 20 goals. Christian Hoechstatter and Guenter Thiele scored their other two. Klaus Allofs and England's Tony Woodcock replied for Cologne.

Despite the late surge, Moenchengladbach, in third place, remains 10 points behind Bayern and four behind Hamburg who sent on Saturday Blau-Heiss Berlin to the Second Division with a 2-1 home win.

Tobias Hempert put Hamburg ahead and, after Wolfgang Schuler had equalised for Berlin, Peter Lux scored the winners.

The league programme finishes next week.

Countess Steffi comes of age for second time

BRUEHL, West Germany (R) — Steffi Graf, the West German tennis countess who would be queen, came of age Sunday for the second time in eight days.

The teenager, the scourge of the women's tennis circuit with seven titles and an unbeaten run of 39 singles victories this year, celebrates her 18th birthday, earning the right to vote in her home country for the first time.

But in tennis terms Graf came of age in Paris last Saturday when she beat world number one Martina Navratilova of the United States to win the French Open, her first Grand Slam crown.

Few doubt that she was the first of many for "Die Grafen," the countess, as she is invariably known by the West German

media.

Graf became the youngest ever French Women's champion and a cause for jubilation in her home town of Bruehl, a suburb of Mannheim with a population of just 15,000.

The single-minded Graf had planned to fly straight from Paris to London to prepare on grass for Wimbledon later this month but she had not reckoned with the fierce pride of the citizens of Bruehl.

Mayor Guenther Reffert persuaded her instead to return for a civic reception on Monday when thousands of cheering fans lined the streets. She was presented with a nine-week-old Alsatian dog and a giant racket covered with flowers.

Peter Fissl, landlord of the Hoppsack Inn in the centre of town, said local people were deeply proud of Graf, who he said "has put this town on the map."

When people here are asked where they come from, they always say "I'm from Bruehl — Steffi Graf's home town," he said.

From Bruehl, a glance across the Rhine valley reveals a large cement works, the most notable feature of Leimen 20 km away, the town where Wimbledon champion Boris Becker was born.

The two tennis wunderkinder have known each other for almost 12 years — since Becker was seven and Graf just six.

By then Graf was already playing against boys because there were no girls her own age able to compete with her already awesome forehead.

The Grafs — father Peter, mother Heidi, Steffi and brother Michael — live in a large bungalow next door to the tennis centre on whose three clay courts the future champion spent countless hours learning her craft.

The club was run by her father until the responsibilities of acting as her manager and mentor became a full-time job.

Steffi started tennis at the age of three when her father shortened a racket handle with a saw so they could play in the living room of their home.

"In those days we lined up a few stools to use as the net," her father recalled. "I would give her a salt stick as a prize if she got the ball over the net 20 times."

Before long his daughter had graduated to a proper tennis court and was soon earning bigger rewards. She was overjoyed to be given a Barbie doll when she first achieved the feat of returning the ball over the net 50 times.

Horst Schmidt, a neighbour and former business partner of Peter Graf's, said Steffi's early successes did not always make her such a popular figure in Bruehl.

"She was so good she was always winning tournaments even when the girls she played against

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Becker reaches Queen's Club final

LONDON (R) — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany won a high-class war of serve-and-volley attrition against American Tim Mayotte and reached the final of the London Grass Court Tennis Championships at Queen's Club Sunday. The top-seeded Becker's 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 victory avenged a defeat by Mayotte in the quarter-finals here last year and put him into Monday's final of the rain-delayed tournament against American Jimmy Connors, the fifth seed. Connors defeated Australian Pat Cash 7-6, 6-4 in the other semifinal Saturday after which Mayotte took a 2-1 lead over Becker before rain halted play.

Carlsson wins Bologna tennis tournament

BOLOGNA, Italy (AP) — Kent Carlsson of Sweden played steady, precise tennis to win the \$18,000 top prize in the Bologna tournament with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Emilio Sanchez of Spain. The 18-year-old Carlsson, the tournament's top seed, made few errors in downing the third-seeded Sanchez, doling out a string of strong serves and well-placed returns on the clay centre court.

FIFA tightens up law on throw-ins

LONDON (R) — The International Football Federation (FIFA) has tightened up soccer's rules on throw-ins. A meeting of FIFA's international board at Llandudno in Wales agreed that from next season players taking throw-ins must do so from exactly the right place or forfeit the throw to their opponents. English Football Association (F.A.) Secretary Ted Croker said: "We have been trying for about five years to get this through and I am very pleased now that we have finally succeeded." Welsh secretary Alun Evans said the move was revolutionary. He added: "From next season, referees will be asked to indicate the spot where a throw-in should be taken. Players who take it from the wrong place will not get a second chance. The throw will be awarded to the opposition."

Soccer fans arrested in pre-match violence

ZWOLLE, Netherlands (AP) — Police arrested 95 soccer fans Saturday after they damaged the interior of a train that was taking them to an out-of-town match, according to a police spokesman. Supporters of the First Division F.C. Cambuur team from Leeuwarden in the northern Netherlands caused 22,000 guilders (\$11,000) in damage, said the spokesman. He said they were questioned and released. Later Saturday, the local NEC team in the eastern Dutch city of Nijmegen defeated F.C. Cambuur, 6-4. When the Nijmegen-bound train, which had departed from Leeuwarden, pulled into this city's railway station, the engineer and conductors refused to continue riding the train, and police were summoned to arrest the fans, according to the spokesman. It was the first serious outbreak of soccer violence in The Netherlands in months. Earlier this year, 25 people were injured during a match between Ajax of Amsterdam and F.C. Den Haag.

New Zealand beats Wales, advances to Rugby Union finals

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — New Zealand overpowered Wales 49-6 on Sunday to advance to the final of the inaugural World Cup Rugby Union Tournament.

The New Zealanders surpassed Wales in every facet of the game and romped to a 27-0 halftime lead. The Kiwis scored four tries in each half as Wales crumpled in the face of a series of relentless forward charges.

Winger John Kirwan and number 8 Wayne Shelford scored two tries each for the New Zealanders, whose other tries came from back-rowers Alan Whetton and Mark Brooke-Cowden, prop John Drake and centre Joe Stanley.

Fly half Grant Fox kicked seven conversions and a penalty. Wales' only points came from a try to centre John Devereux, converted by fullback Paul Thorburn.

New Zealand now faces France in the World Cup final at Eden Park in Auckland on June 20. France won the first semifinal game 30-24 Saturday over Australia at Concord Oval in Sydney.

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Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

DOSTI DUSHMANI

Performances 12:15, 5:15, 8:45, 10:15

Seoul police, protesters clash around cathedral

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Police and anti-government demonstrators clashed again Sunday around a Roman Catholic cathedral complex after restrictions were eased to permit the celebration of mass.

It was the fifth consecutive day of violent protests in the heart of the South Korean capital.

Witnesses said the number of protesters inside Myeongdong Cathedral compound swelled to about 3,000 during the afternoon. Many shouted slogans denouncing the government of President Chun Doo-Hwan and demanding for democratic reforms.

In the narrow streets outside the compound, police battled other protesters.

At one point about 500 young demonstrators occupied part of a street and hurled more than a dozen gasoline bottle bombs at police. Police used tear gas grenades to break up the crowd.

Some people were seen being taken away injured, but there was no immediate estimate. To break up one street rally that went on for almost two hours, police wearing heavy flak-jacket type vests charged into the crowd,

sending both demonstrators and curious passersby fleeing.

Several angry women approached one line of police, handing out flowers and pleading with them not to fire tear gas at the demonstrators.

The students occupying the cathedral have declared it a "liberated zone." They have vowed they will not surrender.

The protests, the most serious since President Chun Doo-Hwan came to power in 1980, appear to draw widespread encouragement and support.

Police said 647 protesters in Seoul had been arrested as of late Saturday.

A priest at the cathedral, who spoke on the condition that he not be identified, said negotiations were continuing between church officials and government authorities.

The demonstrators reportedly want to be allowed to leave the

cathedral without being arrested, while government officials and police are reportedly insisting that the demonstrators must be punished.

The students are getting public shows of support from some members of the church.

On Saturday, dozens of nuns gathered at the gates leading to the cathedral and sang hymns. Some of them said they would protect the students from a possible police assault.

The Korea Times on Sunday quoted unidentified Catholic sources as saying Stephen Cardinal Kim Su-hwan, South Korea's highest-ranking church leader, had met with a top government official to discuss the situation.

Several government officials and members of the president's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) held meetings over the weekend. Few details were disclosed.

Prime Minister Lee Han-Key was quoted in news reports as having told one meeting that the demonstrations during the week "violated democratic order and endangered the very basis of the state."

Sikh extremists kill 12 in Delhi

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Sikh gunmen sprayed bullets at guests at a child's birthday party and at late night strollers in suburban Delhi killing 12 people and injuring 21 in the worst extremist attack in the Indian capital in two years.

Extremists struck in four places late Saturday night leaving a trail of dead and dying on the streets of prosperous south Delhi, police told Reuters.

Police said they had not identified the attackers who escaped but believed them to be extremists fighting for an independent Sikh homeland in the northern state of Punjab.

City Police Commissioner Ved Marwah put the capital on "red alert" and placed police check points on main roads.

Extra police were put on patrol at railway stations, airports, bus terminals and government buildings.

The attacks raised fears that the extremists had once again shifted their battleground from Punjab where police have led a crackdown against them since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi claimed direct rule from Delhi on the state on May 11.

Extremists killed some 90 people in the capital and three adjoining states in May 1985 by concealing booby trap bombs in transistor radios.

On Saturday night gunmen burst into the home of a wealthy Hindu contractor in greater Kailash suburb where some 100 guests were celebrating his son's first birthday.

"Initially we did not think much about the minor explosions but suddenly we heard the staccato burst of gunfire," family member Rakesh Behl told reporters.

"People started running blindly and at that moment two terrorists burst in. They fired nearly 15 rounds from two sten-guns..."

Vijendra Kumar Behl told Reuters he saw a Sikh with a flowing beard and kichie on his head fire a submachine-gun at the family. The attack, which lasted two or three minutes left a total of six guests dead and eight injured.

The attackers also lobbed a grenade, which failed to explode, into the crowd which was chatting and drinking under a marquee in the garden. A banner reading "happy birthday" still hung outside the house Sunday.

The Sikhs, described as young, took over a car parked outside with three guests in it. They forced the driver to speed away at gunpoint. Police later found the car with the three guests shot dead inside.

One report said police also found a note in the vehicle written in Hindi which said: "I am the general of Bhindrawale Force and if innocent people continue to be killed in Punjab by the CRPF (paramilitary police) then we will retaliate by killing innocent people in Delhi."

Congress Party nominates presidential candidate

The Ruling Congress Party on Sunday nominated the country's current vice president, Ramaswamy Venkataraman, as its candidate for president.

Election for the largely ceremonial post is scheduled for July 13.

The nomination was made at a meeting of the party's parliamentary board. Board members and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi later visited Mr. Venkataraman's home to congratulate him.

Italian parties fight for women's vote

ROME (R) — Italy's political parties, long a Latin male preserve, are fighting an unprecedented battle for the votes of 24 million women in the general election, and fielding a record number of female candidates.

After years of political obscurity, women have returned to centre stage, as parties from both left and right scramble to win the support of women, who make up 52 per cent of the electorate.

Altogether 1,577 women in a total of 10,907 candidates will be standing for parliament's upper and lower houses in the June 14-15 elections, the largest number in Italy's history, and the hope is that more women candidates will mean more women's votes.

"Women — vote for women," is the slogan from the majority Christian Democrats (DC) to the opposition Communists, Italy's second largest party.

Until now, most Italians have been hard-pressed to name more than a handful of women politicians — hardly surprising as they account for only seven per cent of the seats in the chamber of deputies and senate.

Actress Geraldine Page dies

NEW YORK (R) — Geraldine Page, the screen and theatre star whose many honours included a 1986 Oscar for best actress, was found dead of an apparent heart attack in her apartment, police said Sunday. She was 62.

Police said Ms. Page was found by her son, Anthony, in her lower Manhattan apartment at 5:55 p.m. (21:55 GMT) Saturday.

Ms. Page's latest role was in Noel Coward's play "Blithe Spirit," opposite Richard Chamberlain on Broadway, in a performance that won her a Tony nomination. She had missed several performances due to illness.

Ms. Page was born on Nov. 22, 1924, in Kirksville, Missouri. She grew up in Chicago, and began her stage career aged 17 in an amateur production of *Excuse My Dust*.

Ms. Page, considered one of the greatest American stage actresses of the last 30 years, finally won a Hollywood Oscar in 1986 after seven frustrating trips to the Academy Awards as a nominee who was passed over.

"If you don't tell anybody," the actress told reporters as she clasped the Best Actress Oscar, "I thought I should have won every time. I'm my biggest fan."

Ms. Page received a thunderous standing ovation when her name was announced as winner for her role as the hymn-singing Carrie Watts in the independent-



Geraldine Page with her 1986 Oscar for best actress (file photo) ly produced the Trip to Bountiful.

F. Murray Abraham, who won the Best Actor Oscar in 1985 for his role as Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus* and presented the award to Ms. Page, said after he opened the envelope, "I consider this woman the best actress in the English-speaking world."

Ms. Page, who appeared on Broadway early in 1986 in Sam Shepard's *A Lie of the Mind*, has been a major star of the new York stage since conquering it in a 1952 off-Broadway production of Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke*.

She received her first Oscar nomination for the screen version of *Summer and Smoke* and added six more for *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *Interiors*, *Hondo*, *You're a Big Boy Now*, *Pete 'n' Tillie* and *The Pope of Greenwich Village*.

Indian minister in Peking to discuss border tension

PEKING (R) — Indian Foreign Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari arrived in Peking Sunday for talks with Chinese officials expected to deal with border tension which has led to confrontations between Chinese and Indian troops.

"We have much to discuss," Tiwari said in a statement to journalists, without referring directly to reports of incursions across the disputed frontier between Tibet and northeast India by armed units of each country earlier this year.

Asked whether there had been recent border clashes, Mr. Tiwari replied: "There have been no incidents."

Both China and India deny fighting has taken place in the Himalayan frontier region.

A foreign tourist in Tibet told Reuters he had seen a busload of injured Chinese soldiers travelling away from the border area in early May.

Indian army officers said this

month that Indian forces had encircled Chinese units making cross-border forays and unleashed a barrage of loudspeaker warnings to them to withdraw.

Chinese troops had answered with their own loudspeaker warnings, leading to exchanges up to a week long, they said.

China last month warned of "unpleasant incidents" unless alleged Indian incursions stopped. But spokesmen for both sides have since urged peaceful discussion of the dispute and said press reports of clashes were exaggerated.

The line dividing Tibet and India's Arunachal Pradesh state was drawn by Sir Arthur McMahon, Foreign Secretary of British India, in 1914 and has never been accepted by China.

Mr. Tiwari's two-day stopover in Peking on his way home from a meeting of non-aligned countries in North Korea is his first visit to China.

Madrid grants asylum to retired Panamanian colonel

MADRID (Agencies) — Spain will grant political asylum to Panamanian retired Col. Roberto Diaz Herrera, a spokesman of the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry said Sunday.

Innocencio Arias said the decision was based on "humanitarian reasons" and an agreement with the Panamanian government.

Col. Diaz Herrera, speaking to reporters at his home in Panama City on Saturday, said he had dictated a letter to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, requesting asylum for himself, his family and friends.

Mr. Arias did not say when Col. Diaz Herrera is expected to arrive in Spain.

Last week, Col. Diaz Herrera claimed Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and Gen. Wallace Nutting, then head of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, conspired to plot a bomb on Gen. Omar Torrijos' plane.

Gen. Noriega, the CIA

and Gen. Nutting all denied the allegations.

Riots and street fightings broke out in Panama after Col. Diaz Herrera made the charges against Gen. Noriega.

Afterward, Col. Diaz Herrera said he feared for his life and sought asylum from Spain.

Meanwhile heavily-armed troops surrounded a church during a "mass for peace" Saturday and helicopters carrying machine-guns wielding soldiers buzzed the building in a tense stand-off between Panama's military and Catholic Church.

The incident occurred as many Panama City banks, shops and businesses cleared away debris from their doors and reopened after several days of violent street riots protesting against military rule.

Under a state of emergency declared by the government two days ago to quell the riots, public gatherings are banned except in churches.

"Yes sir, the women's moment has arrived," announced the political magazine *Europeo* in a recent edition. "Let's try it and see."

But Italian feminists are watching the latest developments with a cynical eye.

Many feel that the parties are using the women's issue as a way to win votes and will promptly dump their candidates once the elections are over.

"Women have been put on the electoral roll to help the parties, not the women's cause," said Magli.

An Italian journalist and feminist adds: "The parties have used the women's movement in a very calculating way to get to power. They don't really care about women's issues."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Iraqi hospitals swamped for AIDS tests

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi hospitals have been swamped by foreign workers and visitors seeking tests for the killer disease AIDS, required under a tough new law. The ruling Revolutionary Command Council decreed in April all foreigners and Iraqis entering the country must undergo the test at a government hospital within five days of arrival. The penalty for violating what may be the world's toughest anti-AIDS law is a 500 dinar (\$1600) fine or six months in jail. A Reuters correspondent who visited his test saw more than one hundred foreigners, mostly Egyptian and Sudanese workers, crowding a small office at the Al Fardai Hospital in central Baghdad. One Egyptian said he had been waiting five days for the AIDS and other required health tests. The office was dispensing certificates telling applicants to return for an AIDS test in two months but allowing them to leave Iraq before then. Diplomats say some travellers trying to leave without the certificates have been turned back at the airport. No AIDS cases have been officially reported in Iraq, whose population of some 14 million includes two million foreigners.

French jewellers charged with fraud

PARIS (R) — Two partners in the French company Chaumet, jewellers to Napoleon Bonaparte, Queen Victoria, African Potentates and Middle East royalty since the 18th century, were charged with fraud and abuse of confidence, judicial sources said. Jacques Chaumet, 60, and his brother Pierre, 58, were arrested after they filed for bankruptcy citing huge debts. Paris bankers said the brothers, the ninth generation of Chaumets to run the store in the exclusive Place Vendome, owed about 1.8 billion francs (\$300 million). Most debts were owed to international banks, fellow jewellers and rich clients on whose behalf it sold jewellery, they said. Bankers said the arrest of the Chaumet brothers had shocked the Paris financial community and the practice of waiving strict credit guarantees for loans to the secretive jewellery business would now be questioned.

Bangladesh rat-race enters 3rd year

DHAKA (R) — In its continuing war on rodents, the Bangladesh government is offering television sets and other electronic gadgets as rewards for farmers who bag at least 500 rats, agricultural officials have said. They said nearly five million rats had been killed since Bangladesh launched a campaign two years ago to save up to 1.4 million tonnes of rice and wheat destroyed by rats annually. Until now rat-catchers had been given four U.S. cents for each rat killed, but an official told Reuters: "So far this has been a success, but we need to revise strategies to cope with the fast-growing rat population." Farmers normally use fishing nets and tranquillisers mixed with wheat-balls to capture the rodents. But where the devices fail to work, they use trumps, loudspeakers and firecrackers to halt the advancing hordes. Agriculture experts have suggested that buzzards and eagles should be bred to keep down the rodent population.

Sinatra starts Italian concert tour

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Frank Sinatra, declaring himself a Sicilian, returned to the land of his ancestors for an inaugural concert of a three-week Italian tour that had more than 10,000 fans screaming for more. It was the first time that the New Jersey-born crooner they call "the voice" had performed in Sicily and the fans in Palermo's Favorita Stadium embraced him like a returning son. "I'm a Sicilian, my father was born here ... in Catania," Sinatra, 70, told the crowd in accented Italian. He started with *Fly Me to the Moon*, won a 10-minute ovation with *My Way* and rounded off with *Mack the Knife*. Sinatra's brief stay in Palermo sparked a minor political controversy with the leftist Proletarian Democracy Party accusing the local council of unnecessarily subsidising the concert. But its biggest impact seemed to have been on Sicilians hoping they might be related to Sinatra. "My father was the brother of Antonio (Sinatra's father), so that makes me Frankie's cousin," the newspaper *Giornale* quoted one fan as saying. It said the man's age, 28, did not quite tally with the claim.

Soviet officials sentenced for corruption

MOSCOW (R) — Two Soviet legal officials have been sentenced to unspecified terms of corrective labour for forcing a man to plead guilty to two murders he did not commit, a Soviet newspaper has said. The daily *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said V. Shchegol, former attorney general in the Otkrybyskiy region of Krasnodar, a town near the Black Sea, and his chief researcher, A. Kegeyan, had sought to advance their careers by solving the case quickly. They forced Gennady Abolmasov to confess to the murder of his mother and her lodger. He was saved from execution when the real murderer confessed before the death sentence was carried out, it said. The two officials had ignored evidence and fabricated a case against Abolmasov to appear more professional and win praise from their superiors, it said. The Soviet Communist Party leadership has called for a crackdown on abuse in the country's police and judiciary amid concern over a number of miscarriages of justice reported in the press.

Soviet woman gets new visual powers

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet woman who started seeing ultraviolet rays after electrocuting herself can diagnose illnesses, see through asphalt and tell people what they ate for lunch, the government newspaper *Izvestia* said Sunday. Yuliya Vorobyeva, 37, was pronounced dead and spent two nights in a morgue after receiving a 380-volt electric shock in March, 1978. She did not sleep for six months after she regained consciousness. Then she finally had a long sleep and next day found she had new visual powers, *Izvestia* said. "I went shopping for some bread one morning. I got to the bus stop and a woman was standing there. I went up to her and suddenly I was struck by horror — I thought I could see right through this woman like a television screen," she said. Vorobyeva said she saw ultra-violet rays from the sun and the soil beneath the asphalt covering a road. Y. Yezhvertin, a doctor, said Vorobyeva was a peerless diagnostician. She told him correctly that his hearing was better in one ear and his right eye was weaker than his left within seconds, the daily said. Another doctor, S. Svedlerova, said Vorobyeva was able to diagnose the most neglected illnesses and had never made a wrong diagnosis. When *Izvestia* correspondent N. Lisovenko visited Vorobyeva in Donetsk in the Soviet Ukraine, she correctly told him a light red liquid in his stomach indicated he had eaten "kisel," a kind of starchy jelly.

Soviets plan huge satellites for electricity

NEW YORK (AP) — The Soviet Union is planning to build huge satellites that will convert sunlight into electricity for use on earth and will reflect sunlight for lighting at night, according to a report published Sunday. The New York Times reported that a giant satellite components into orbit. "The ultimate goal is to beam the energy back to earth," for conversion into electricity, said Nicholas L. Johnson, an expert on Soviet space programmes at Teledyne Brown Engineering in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "They also talk about using reflectors in space to light cities and farms." Guri I. Marchuk, head of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and other Soviet officials recently have hailed the goal of solar power satellites. "Power is a prerequisite for anything you do in space," said Peter Glaser, a pioneer of the solar-power satellite idea. Proceeding with solar power satellites will give them a number of options," he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J976 ♠8 ♠KJ763 ♠Q98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ Pass ?
"weak"
What action do you take?
A.—You have little or no defense and you can be sure that the opponents have a heart fit. From your hand, it is even possible that the opponents could make a slam. Make life difficult for them—jump to four spades to force West to guess at a high level.
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q8 ♠AJ72 ♠KQ952 ♠K7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ Pass ?
"weak"
What do you bid now?
A.—On this hand, too, you should jump to four spades—this time with every expectation of making that contract. It is the fact that you might have either of the above holdings that puts West in a predicament when he has a good hand.
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K983 ♠AQJ95 ♠K8 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You are interested in a slam, and a grand slam is not unlikely if partner has the right hand. However, you need room to investigate. Since North's jump shift was game-forcing, for the moment you need do no more than agree to the trump suit by bidding three spades.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q9 ♠J1073 ♠Q9832 ♠72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
"forcing"
What do you bid now?
A.—You know where you want to play the hand, so get there as fast as possible. Jump to four hearts. That is a specialized bid which shows good trumps while denying first- or second-round control of any side suit.
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K106 ♠AJ93 ♠KJ10 ♠Q83
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—You have the strength and shape for a two no trump response, but it is unsound policy to bypass a reasonable four-card major. Even though your hand is perfectly balanced, partner's might not be and he could ignore his weakish four-card major if you jump in no trump. Respond one heart.
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K9 ♠Q109542 ♠985 ♠64
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Partner's raise shows a maximum no trump opening bid with good heart support. Even though you have only 5 points in high cards, we feel your sixth heart is just about enough to warrant your bidding game in the suit.